

The House Select
Committee On Assassinations
COVERUP



IN XEROXED COPIED, SPIRAL BOUND, MANUSCRIPT FORM,
A CHRONOLOGICAL COMPILLATION OF HSCA DOCUMENTS,
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE DEBATE TRANSCRIPTS, HSCA
INTERIM REPORTS, VERBATIM CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH
CHIEF COUNSELS RICHARD A. SPRAGUE & ROBERT BLAKEY,
HSCA ARTICLES, UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENTS OF THE HSCA'S
INVESTIGATION BY JIM GARRISON, RICHARD E. SPRAGUE,
MARK LANE, HAROLD WEISBERG, MAE BRUSSELL & DR. CYRIL
H. WECHT. ALSO, THE AUTHOR'S RECENTLY AQUIRED EVIDENCE
& PROOF OF DIRECT C.I.A. INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDER
OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

TED GANDOLFO

TED GANDOLFO

**The House Select
Committee On Assassinations**
COVERUP

Published By Ted Gandolfo in 1987

Contents

	Page
Dedications	1
Acknowledgments	2
A Note From The Author	3
Introduction	4

Chapters

	Page
1. Before The Beginning	8
2. The Investigation	144
3. Aftermath	204
4. Researchers Assess The HSCA'S Investigation	275

1

-THIS IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED TO-

ANITA, MY WIFE, WHOSE FAITH AND TRUST IN ME PROVIDED ME WITH THE INSPIRATION TO WRITE THIS TOME.

JIM GARRISON, WHOSE GREAT COURAGE, VALOR AND HUMANITY, IN FACE OF TREMENDOUS POWER AND DISINFORMATION, USED BY THE CIA TO DISCREDIT HIM AND TORPEDO HIS TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION, CONTINUES TO THIS DAY TO INFORM OUR CITIZENS OF THE TRUTH IN THIS MATTER.

RICHARD E. SPRAGUE, WHOSE RESEARCH HAS ASSISTED ME GREATLY THROUGH THE YEARS, AS WELL AS GREATLY ASSISTING JIM GARRISON. A TRULY UNSUNG HERO WHO HAD THE COURAGE AND CONVICTION OF INFORMING US ALL OF THE NEFARIOUS PRACTICES EMPLOYED BY THE HSCA, BEING THE FIRST OF ONLY TWO MEN WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THE HSCA TO FLAUNT THE INFAMOUS "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT." I AM VERY PROUD TO CALL HIM MY FRIEND. (READ HIS DEVESTATING ARTICLE HEREIN.)

MARK LANE, WHOSE GREAT PIONEERING RESEARCH SERVED TO ENLIGHTEN PEOPLES OF THE WHOLE WORLD AS TO THE FRAUDULENCE OF THE GOVERNMENTAL MYTHOLOGY RELATING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. HE ALSO GREATLY ASSISTED JIM GARRISON IN HIS INVESTIGATION.

Acknowledgments

As one who has researched this heinous crime, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, since that infamous day and continuing to the present time, and being the one critic who has compiled the largest, all-inclusive, chronologically listed tape-recorded library in the world relating to this case, I have been made aware of the massive distortions of truth perpetrated by all factions of this government and it's lackeys in the news media as few people know it. The obfuscations of truth have been many indeed. These untruths have been orchestrated by the very highest levels of governmental agencies in what has been, and remain, a never-ending symphony of untruth and, in the truest sense, remain despicable. The barriers to those of us whom have sought to convey and provide the truth in this matter have been many and unceasing. Fortunately, we have in great measure, broken down these barriers of untruth. Due mainly to these very difficult efforts, we have been instrumental in convincing more than 90% of Americans of the gigantic fraud which has been continuously perpetrated on them by the government and it's agencies, outright lies which have been spoofed to us by the CIA's "propaganda assets" in the media. Fortunately also is the fact that there are people like Jim Garrison, Richard E. Sprague, Harold Weisberg, Mark Lane, Cyril H. Wecht, Mae Brussel, Robert Groden, Gaeton Fonzi, Thomas Whittle, L. Fletcher Prouty, Vincent Salandria, Ed Taturo, Ray Marcus, Bob Cutler and myself, among several others, people who, with every force used against us, continually strode towards a higher calling to take a stand against the many who proclaimed odious untruths in their subservience to the "national security" while the national HONOR was at stake.

What can be said about a government when it's very agencies feel it is politically expedient and financially profitable to cold-bloodedly murder it's head of state? Is it truly a nation "of, by and for the people" when the KNOWN perpetrators are allowed to go unpunished? When it remains a fact that in the only truthful investigation this country has ever had into this odious crime, that the man conducting it is traduced, ridiculed, lied about and illegally prevented in conducting it, can it be continued as a "representative government"? For it is a known fact to anyone worth their salt as a researcher that only one man, Jim Garrison, had the humanity and courage to attempt to bring to light the truth regarding this matter, and he was thwarted, by the government, and by the Central Intelligence Agency, the actual perpetrators of the crime, in his attempts. The finite question remains...Is the CIA to continue to go unpunished for committing this "crime of the century"? Can there be true redress by the people? Can we all be comfortable living in a country which facilitates the policies of a fascist state?

President Kennedy was killed for the finest thing he tried to do...to provide and ensure peace for all mankind for all generations to come. Can we turn our backs to his ideals and the ideals which made this country great? Have we indeed reached the point where everything is subservient to the government and it's intelligence agencies, as exemplified in Orwell's "1984" or is there yet a remaining redemption possible? Therefore, it is a redundancy to ask, "Who killed JFK?" The question for us all now remains as to what the citizens of this country can and will do to restore America to it's position of moral prominence and the freedoms which are so proudly proclaimed in it's heritage. To do anything less would necessarily be an abridgement of those very ideals which made this country great.

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to relive it"...Santiana.
"Let justice be done though the heavens fall"...Jim Garrison.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR:

During the more than 23 years I have researched the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, I have been asked, on numerous occasions, especially on talk shows I have guested on all across this country, from callers and hosts alike, questions such as, "We won't ever know what really happened, will we?" Or, "What difference does it make now anyway?"

Whenever I got those reactions, I would have to restrain a spark of anger that would flare within me. I believe that today, more than ever, it does make a difference. It matters!

A President of the United States was assassinated more than 23 years ago and we still don't know what happened. There is no doubt now that it was a conspiracy, but, until the publication of this book, we aren't sure of anything beyond that. We do not know. And, yet, most of us- the polls say and the press reflects it-are not very angry about that. We don't like it, but we are no longer very upset about it. That's history and, Lord knows, there are enough worries today.

But I think you should be very angry about it. The assassination of President Kennedy was a blatant affront to each and every one of us who believes that we, as individuals, should have some control over who governs us and how we are governed. If you don't understand that, you don't understand the basis of the democratic system. You would have been very angry if someone with a gun had stopped you from going into the voting booth, had taken away your freedom to choose. You would have seen that quite clearly as a direct attack against the democratic system- and an outrageous personal affront to you, an unquestionable infringement of your rights.

And yet the analogy is quite obvious: The conspiracy to kill the President of the United States was also a conspiracy against the democratic system- and thus a conspiracy against YOU. The choice that you made in the voting booth was disapproved. That's why it still matters.

Understand this also: The action that brought about the death of President Kennedy is related to what is happening today. It prefaced the disintegration of faith in our government. It's residue lies in the ashes of the Sixties, in burnt-out countries and burnt-out cities and in many of our burnt-out young people. It fathered the now prevailing and debilitating assumption that we no longer have control over our economic or political destiny. We are now a so-called democratic nation in which less than a third of the people even bother to vote and increasingly don't give a damn about their government; where the quality and quantity of our productivity is declining; and where there is rampant cynicism and disrespect for all established institutions.

Perhaps at the time of Kennedy's assassination not enough was known to spark immediate reaction and anger, and the gradual manner in which it became known only generated disillusionment and cynicism. And yet, after two official government investigations, it remains outrageous in a democratic system that we still don't know what happened- we don't know exactly what was done to us and by whom, until now.

I think you should get very angry about that. If not, you might as well let slip the grip on your individual freedom. It will be gone soon enough.

-Ted Gandolfo

INTRODUCTION

The House Select Committee on Assassinations was established on September 17, 1976 by an overwhelming vote of the House Of Representatives by a vote of 280 to 65. The Committee's mandate was to fully investigate all of the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Very shortly thereafter, I sent to each member of the Committee copies of 35 hours of crucially important tape-recordings including CBS-TV and NBC-TV reportage of the entire date of November 22, 1963, beginning 14 minutes after the first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at President Kennedy in Dallas. Up until the day the House Select Committee on Assassinations was established, I had compiled what is acknowledged to be the largest tape-recorded library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, nearly 4,000 hours total. In late 1976, Richard A. Sprague was chosen to be the Chief Counsel of the Committee and at that time, a number of us researchers indicated that we were very pleased with his selection. We felt that he was the very best choice to be the Chief Counsel of that Committee. Some people disagreed, however, especially after the first press conference that he held in Washington upon assuming that position when he said, "Every single document from the files of the FBI and the CIA that was relevant to either murder would be subpoenaed," and that "Every single witness would be called who was within the continent of the United States, or Hawaii, or Alaska who had information relevant to either of the two murders." Mr. Sprague fully intended to interview in depth every competent researcher and to use their information in his investigations. He also intended to obtain and study the evidence of Jim Garrison's investigation conducted in 1967. Sprague's idea was to investigate the possible involvement of the CIA and the FBI in the two assassinations and in the subsequent coverups. During the time that Mr. Sprague was the Chief Counsel, the Select Committee on Assassinations issued an Interim Report dated March 28, 1977. On pages 8 and 9 of that report, under the title "Development Of The Investigation Into The Assassination Of President John F. Kennedy", here are some of the published statements made:

1) "The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA supported Anti-Castro groups and which suggest that his reported Pro-Castro activities and possibly his alleged trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to mask those associations."

2) "The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before November 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of 1963, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby."

3) "On January 27, 1964, members of the Warren Commission met in Executive Session to discuss evidence which had surfaced indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was an undercover FBI informant at the time of the JFK assassination. Specifically, the evidence indicated that Oswald was employed by the FBI from September of 1962 up until the assassination at a salary of \$200 a month. His FBI number was allegedly either 172 or 179. The Evidence came from two sources, but the Commission did not investigate the matter, and simply

accepted a statement by J. Edgar Hoover, that Oswald was not an informant for the FBI."

4) "Recently, an FBI informant advised the Committee that he had seen an FBI agent and Lee Harvey Oswald meeting together on numerous occasions in various New Orleans bars. The informant states that he had previously denied seeing Oswald and the agent together because he was threatened by the agent. The agent has denied the informant's charge." (T.G. Note: The informant was Orest Pena, and the FBI agent who threatened him was said to be FBI agent Warren Dubreys.)

5) " A witness, who was an FBI Security Code Clerk in the New Orleans Field Office from 1961 to 1966 alleges that the FBI sent a teletype to all of it's offices 5 days before the assassination warning of a reported conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas on November 22, 1963. The witness further states that the teletype disclosed that a militant revolutionary group was to be involved in the assassination. The FBI has denied sending such a teletype."

6) "The Committee has information which, if corroborated, establishes links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. Documents in the possession of the FBI, some of which are in the public domain, indicate that the Bureau destroyed relevant evidence and proffered misleading statements to the Warren Commission. Our analysis of the investigative procedures of Federal Agencies is a potential subject of action by our Committee and the Congress."

These are some of the areas of investigation that the Committee, under the leadership of Richard A. Sprague were pursuing. And in that same month of March, 1977, the campaign against Mr. Sprague began and, I think that, as we look back on it now, we can see that the campaign was coordinated by the intelligence organizations of this country. The first clue that that was true was that Jeremiah O'Leary of the Washington-Star newspaper played a leading part in the campaign. The Church Committee Report in 1976 revealed Mr. O'Leary to have been listed by the CIA in it's own files as a "Propaganda Asset" of the CIA. The Church Committee also revealed that Mr. O'Leary was listed by J. Edgar Hoover as a man who would, and DID, publish false material about the death of Dr. King at the request of the FBI, something he had done regularly in the past, and something which he began doing AGAIN in terms of the coordinated attacks on Mr. Sprague. And they were certainly coordinated. David Burnham of the New York Times was also brought in, from Philadelphia, and he launched a series of attacks on Mr. Sprague also. All of this was CRUCIAL to the takeover of the House Select Committee because Sprague HAD to be removed. And Burnham wrote 5 stories in the N.Y. Times in one month. One of them was placed on the FRONT PAGE of the Times. The most recent article that he relied upon dealt with a story written SEVEN YEARS AGO, and he went to the morgue of the Philadelphia newspapers to get it. Mr. Burnham stated in these articles that Mr. Sprague used incorrect prosecutorial procedures to convict a person unjustly. The stories were absolutely untrue. After these stories by Burnham were written, they were followed by an editorial statement of congratulations for Mr. Burnham for having utilized his investigative skills in attacking Mr. Sprague. The campaign against Sprague continued and, because of it, it was determined

that if Sprague remained as Chief Counsel, the Committee's continuance would be voted down and abolished unless Sprague quit, at which point, Sprague quit, saying that he did not come there to PREVENT an investigation from taking place. For an interim period of three months, thereafter, a man Named Ken Broten filled in as the temporary Chief Counsel. Then, on June 20, 1977, came the master-stroke by the intelligence organizations. A former employee of the United States Justice Department, Robert Blakey was, shall we say, "selectively selected" to be the permanent Chief Counsel of the Select Committee on Assassinations! It is a proven fact that from that moment on, suppressions of truth permeated the Committee's chambers, and deception was the order of each and every day the Committee functioned, until it's "investigations" had been completed! With the arrival of Blakey, EVERY SINGLE IOTA of ANY evidence which tended to disprove the earlier findings of the Warren Commission was either TOTALLY IGNORED OR SUPPRESSED and consigned to the National Archives, under the label "TOP SECRET" and/or "CLASSIFIED", for no less than FIFTY YEARS!! The conclusive evidence of direct CIA involvement in the JFK assassination which Jim Garrison told me about on February 10, 1978, during the HSCA'S "investigation", which was turned over to Committee investigator, Clifford Fenton, who headed a 5-man investigative team charged with securing Garrison's evidence, THAT crucial important evidence was COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED FROM THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY BY BLAKEY & COMPANY. (This appears later in this work.) Forensic pathologist, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht's brilliant testimony before the Committee, during which he completely DEMOLISHED the, so-called, "Single-bullet-theory", which is so very necessary if the mythology of the Warren Commission is to be believed or, for that matter, if also the basic conclusions reached by the HSCA are to prevail, Wecht's testimony was COMPLETELY IGNORED!! The, also brilliant, photographic display and analysis supplied to the Committee by Richard E. Sprague and Robert Groden was ALSO TOTALLY IGNORED by the Committee! In my studied opinion, the coverup perpetrated by the HSCA was far more massive in scope than that which originated with the Warren Commission, because of the fact that the HSCA had much, much more DEFINITIVE, OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE, IN ALL FORMS, OF BOTH CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK ASSASSINATION AND, ALSO, FBI INVOLVEMENT IN THE SLAYING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND THEY COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED ALL OF IT!! While we long-time researchers have been very successful in alerting the citizens of this country of the fraudulence of the Warren Commission's conclusion there has not yet been, before this tome, an expose of the more prodigious, absolute fraud which was perpetrated by the HSCA. That is my purpose in writing this work, which includes varied HSCA documents, transcripts, etc, as well as articles on the subject written by myself and Richard E. Sprague, who served as a photographic consultant to the Committee.

"Let justice be done, though the heavens fall..."-Jim Garrison.

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to relive it."-Santiana.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance..."Thomas Jefferson.

1· Before The Beginning

EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY IN JFK ASSASSINATION WHICH I SUBMITTED TO CONGRESSMAN THOMAS DOWNING.

The following is a copy of a letter I sent to Congressman Thomas Downing on October 3, 1975:

Congressman Thomas Downing
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:
Assassination Information
Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
(212) 288-1596
October 3, 1975

Dear Sir,

As per our phone conversation two days ago, during which I established my credentials regarding my research into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, may I again say that I and my colleagues are very supportive of your proposed resolution to create a select committee of congress for the purpose of fully investigating the circumstances surrounding the JFK murder. Therefore, as promised, I am sending you the enclosed information in order to perhaps assist you in your endeavors. I thank you again for your stand on this matter.

Beginning on the very day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and continuing since then, I have been made aware of information from various sources and personages, including my own 13 year research, which attests to my belief and conviction that there was indeed a conspiracy involved in this most heinous crime. Moreover, it is my unshakeable belief that Lee Harvey Oswald never fired a single shot at JFK that day. I will now enumerate:

1) On November 22, 1963, at 1:50 p.m. a news reporter stated that "We know that Mr. Kennedy was hit in the right temple."

NOTE: This statement, which is corroborated by viewing the famous Zapruder film of the assassination, absolutely proves that neither Oswald nor anyone else could have fired that shot from the 6th floor of the TSBD building because of the fact that the President's car was located at a point which would have made it totally impossible for any shot to have struck him in the SIDE of his head. Therefore, the Warren Commission's Conclusion that "...all shots which struck the president were fired from the rear..." is totally false!

2) On Nov.22,1963, at 3:09 p.m., a reporter interviewed one of the eyewitnesses, Mary Moorman, who stated to him that she heard at least 6 or 7 shots fired. She also told him, "I looked up and saw a man running along the top of the hill."

NOTE: Ms. Moorman's assessment of the number of shots she heard contradicts the W.C. conclusions that only 3 shots were fired that day, and her seeing someone "running along the top of the hill", (the grassy knoll area) is corroborative of someone there, perhaps firing at least one shot from that area. which 58 other eyewitnesses agreed to.

3) On Nov.22,1963, according to the W.C., Lee Oswald fired 3 shots at JFK from the 6th floor-southeast corner window of the TSBD Building, then ran 32 feet away from the window and stashed the rifle where it was found between 2 cardboard boxes, ran another 21 feet to the stairway, ran down 4 flights of stairs and entered the 2nd floor lunchroom, put a coin into a Coca-Cola soda dispensing machine, opened the bottle, then drank a little soda, ALL in less than 90 seconds! Oswald was confronted in the lunchroom by Roy Truly, superintendant of the building and by Dallas motorcycle officer Marrion L. Baker in less (they both stated) than 90 seconds after allegedly firing the 3rd shot at the president. Both men testified to the W.C. in 1964. They said that when they confronted Oswald in the 2nd floor lunchroom that Oswald was calm and unexcited and was not at all breathing heavily, even after Officer Baker pulled out his revolver and pressed it against Oswald's

stomach while asking Mr. Truly if he knew who this person was! Whereupon Truly identified Oswald as being one of the employees of the building. They then both let Oswald alone as they rushed out of the lunchroom and rushed up the stairs to continue their search for the assassin/s. With Oswald being so "calm and unexcited" one wonders how this would have been possible had he have been on the sixth floor merely less than 90 seconds before. To add to this, and undoubtedly the fact which I will now mention which completely and totally exonerates Oswald from this crime he is alleged to have committed is the following:

a) The only elevator in the TSBD building was situated on the FIFTH floor at, and directly after the shots were fired at President Kennedy.

b) There was only one staircase in the TSBD building.

c) A woman employee was standing on the FOURTH FLOOR of this ONLY STAIRCASE with another female friend/co-worker DURING AND AFTER the shots were fired. Her name is Elsie Dorman. She stated to reporters firstly and later to the Warren Commission that "NOBODY PASSED US ON THE STAIRS AT THAT TIME. WE SAW NOBODY THERE."

Therefore, if we rule out OSMOSIS, it is TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE for Oswald or anyone else, to have made it into the second floor lunchroom in less than 90 seconds after firing shots from the sixth floor window in that building!! I trust that THIS SINGLE FACT OF NOBODY PASSING HER ON THE STAIRS AT THE CRITICAL TIME PROVES BEYOND QUESTION THAT OSWALD COULD NOT POSSIBLY, AND DID NOT, FIRE A SINGLE SHOT AT PRESIDENT KENNEDY FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THAT BUILDING THAT INFAMOUS DAY!

4) The famous Zapruder film of the assassination of President Kennedy shows conclusively that exactly 5.6 seconds elapsed between the first shot and the final shot, allegedly the third shot according to the Warren Commission, were fired at the president. One wonders how it would have been at all possible for Oswald to have fired those three (?) shots, with two hits, since it is a fact that

a) Not one single rifleman, even those rated as "MASTER" by the FBI, (there is no higher classification), could ever duplicate that feat of marksmanship attributed to Oswald, although the firing conditions these "MASTER" riflemen faced were much easier for them and not at all those conditions which allegedly confronted "Oswald" that day.

b) Oswald was regarded, and RATED, as "A RATHER POOR SHOT" by the Marine Corps under which he served earlier. In addition, a fellow Marine, and friend of Oswalds, Nelson Delgado, testified to the Warren Commission that Oswald was so inept with a rifle that he constantly, "COMPLETELY MISSED NOT ONLY THE TARGET AREA BUT THE WHOLE SHEET THE TARGET WAS PLACED ON ALSO." Therefore, obviously, the question is HOW ON EARTH COULD OSWALD HAVE PERFORMED THAT FEAT OF MARKSMANSHIP WHICH NO KNOWN EXPERT, INCLUDING FBI "MASTER" RIFLEMEN, COULD DUPLICATE??

5) Lee Harvey Oswald was also charged with shooting and killing Dallas policeman J.D. TIPPIT. But a woman named Aquilla Clemmons gave a sworn statement to the FBI in which she said that there were TWO MEN who shot at, and killed, Tippitt. She said that neither man was Oswald, and that after the shooting one man yelled to the other, "Go on", and that they then ran in opposite directions away from the scene of the crime. The very next day Miss Clemmons was visited by two agents of the FBI. She told researcher Mark Lane that they told her, "You'd better not tell anyone else what you saw or you might get hurt going to work someday." Miss Clemmons is still alive and I would strongly urge you and the Select Committee on Assassinations to call her as a material witness about this matter. Also, it is an admitted fact, by the FBI, that the slugs taken from officer Tippitt's body DID NOT match the revolver that Oswald was carrying with him that day! I think this fact should also be diligently examined and investigated in all aspects by you, Mr. Downing. I trust you'll do this.

6) Jesse Curry, former Dallas police chief, was among those who were riding in the President's motorcade that day. He stated, during a press conference in October, 1975, "The motorcade had motorcycle escorts and the motorcycle officer riding immediately to the rear and to the left of the president's car-he had brains and blood and flesh scattered all over him, splattered on him, which would tend to make me believe that the shot had been fired from the front." Enclosed, find the tape of him saying this. Mr. Curry should certainly be called to testify to that effect before you and the Select Committee.

7) George O'Toole, a criminologist and voice analyst, who is an expert in determining whether someone is telling the truth, or lying, by using a "Psychological-Stress-Evaluator" (P.S.E.) which is used by many law enforcement agencies across the country, stated, "Lee Harvey Oswald, when he made that statement, 'No, I didn't shoot anybody, no sir', was absolutely sincere that he did not kill or shoot at the President." Enclosed, find the tape of Mr. O'Toole saying this. I trust that Mr. O'Toole will be called to testify before the Select Committee as well.

8) Commander James J. Humes was one of the three pathologists who conducted the autopsy which was performed on President Kennedy. After concluding this autopsy, Doctor Humes, that very same evening, wrote a statement which he submitted to the Warren Commission in June, 1964 when he appeared before them as a witness. The/his statement reads as follows: "I, Commander James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed, by burning in my fireplace, certain preliminary draft notes of the autopsy I performed on President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963." Of course, the Warren Commission NEVER ASKED HIM A SINGLE QUESTION AS TO WHY HE DID THAT-DESTROYING BASIC, PRIMARY, POTENTIALLY CRUCIAL EVIDENCE IN THIS CASE, ABSOLUTELY A TOTALLY UNHEARD OF THING TO DO!!

Therefore, I feel it IMPERATIVE that Dr. Humes be called to testify before the Select Committee on Assassinations in order to FINALLY ascertain the reason/s for his INCREDIBLE BEHAVIOR in this matter.

9) The sine-que-non of the Warren Commission's case that "Oswald was the lone assassin" is the, so-called "single-bullet-theory" which maintains that only one bullet went through President Kennedy and Governor of Texas, John Connally, who was seated immediately in front of the president, the bullet emerging in an almost totally pristine condition when found, although it is supposed to have completely shattered Connally's fifth rib, exited from his chest leaving a "large sucking wound" there, went on to completely fracture his right wrist bone at it's thickest, densest portion, etc. As Arlen Specter, chief counsel of the Warren Commission and, indeed, the actual inventor of this "single-bullet-theory" stated to the press at the outset of the W.C. investigation, "To say that both men were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying that there were two assassins." Therefore, I strongly urge yourself and the Select Committee to perform a series of tests, using the very same type of ammunition as that allegedly used by Lee Harvey Oswald, in order to determine if ANY BULLET ON THIS PLANET would remain in the same, nearly totally pristine condition as the one which is alleged to have done all the damage that was done to President Kennedy and Governor Connally that day.

10) During the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans, Louisiana in March, 1969, another of the three pathologists who conducted the autopsy performed on President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, named Pierre Finck, testified that during the course of this autopsy, a General or an Admiral, (he couldn't be specific which), ordered the three pathologists to NOT TRACE AND TRACK THE NECK WOUND OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY!! Undoubtedly, Mr. Finck should also be called to testify before

the Select Committee on this matter and the Select Committee should attempt to ascertain, if possible, which Admirals and Generals were present in that autopsy room, hopefully to further ascertain just WHICH of them gave this order, obviously to conceal the facts in this "crime of the century."

II) Doctor Robert Shaw, the physician who attended to Governor Connally wounds on November 22, 1963 stated in a press conference that "it is inconceivable to me that Kennedy and Connally could have been hit by the same bullet because there are too many fragments left in Connally's wrist, chest and thigh that were missing from that bullet."

This statement ALONE completely discredits the "single-bullet-theory" and therefore proves that there was, indeed, a conspiracy afoot that day. I urge you to call Dr. Shaw as a witness before the Select Committee.

I2) Doctor Malcolm Perry, the very first doctor to observe President Kennedy's frontal neck wound said in a press conference he held that tragic day that the wound "appeared to be an entrance wound in front, yes, that is correct. The bullet was coming AT HIM." Dr. Perry described the frontal neck wound as a "neat, tiny wound of entrance." Dr. Perry should also testify before the Select Committee as well.

I3) Doctor James McClelland, also at Parkland Hospital, (before the federal authorities illegally took President Kennedy's body to another hospital-Bethesda Hospital in Washington, D.C.), stated that "President Kennedy died as a result of a bullet wound of his LEFT temple." Amazingly, (or perhaps not so amazingly because of their preconception that Oswald was "the lone assassin" of JFK), the Warren Commission never deposed Dr. McClelland to testify before it. I sincerely trust you will have him testify before the Select Committee very soon now.

Finally, I would like to offer you any assistance and/or information, either in tape-recorded or printed form. Please feel free to ask me for anything that I have compiled beginning on that tragic day in Dallas 14 years ago tomorrow. I will be only too happy to assist you in any way I can in furtherance of your securing and divulging the truth in this case.

With deepest respect, I remain,

Very truly yours in struggle,


Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.C.



NOVEMBER 22, 1963- This photograph, taken by an unknown photographer, was taken at the very moment of the fatal head shot to President Kennedy and corresponds with frame number 313 of the Zapruder film. This incredible photo (above) clearly shows a puff of white smoke emanating from behind the wooden fence atop the "grassy Knoll" situated to the right-front of JFK's limousine where many eyewitnesses stated a shot had been fired from. This photo has NEVER been published in ANY magazine, newspaper, book, etc, because it indisputedly PROVES the existence of a conspiracy in the JFK assassination. (courtesy of Richard E. Sprague)



ZAPRUDER FILM FRAME #313- In this large blow-up we see the massive explosion AT THE FRONT



DEALY PLAZA, DALLAS, NOVEMBER 22, 1963-

(Courtesy of Richard E. Sprague)

Here we see three alleged "tramps" being taken to the Dallas police headquarters that day, soon after the shots were fired at JFK. There are no records of their arrest, names, etc, contrary to police rules.

March 18, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H 2095

against the other. Mrs. Dinenzon left the Soviet Union for our country. She resides today in my district in Chicago with her son Viktor, waiting sometimes patiently, sometimes nearly hysterically for her other son to join her. Letters in her own blood to Soviet officials have gone unanswered as have the various inquiries I have attempted to make.

I had hoped after my recent trip to the Soviet Union and my meetings with the First Secretary and others that we would be able to reach the accords needed to facilitate emigration that would lead to the joining of families such as that of Mrs. Dinenzon. Those hopes are now shattered. We find that letters, entreaties, pleas fall on deaf ears.

I have written a personal letter to Georgi Arbatov the head of the Soviet Institute of American and Canadian Affairs asking for his personal intercession in the case. I am waiting for his answer.

Mr. Speaker, I attach Mrs. Dinenzon's plea.

A MOTHER'S CALL FOR HELP

I have been compelled to make an appeal for help. People suffer not only from wars, but also from inhumane treatment of them in times of peace. This problem prevents solution of the great tasks of peace all over the world.

My family is small; there are three of us, myself and two sons. We lost my husband and their father in the years of World War II. I have carefully brought up my two sons. They are not married... we have always lived together.

In 1972 we presented an application for permission to leave the Soviet Union. The result was that emigration was permitted only me and my younger son. My older son, Felix Aronovich, an engineer, was refused the right to leave on the basis that he had at some time worked at a secret plant.

In his appeals to higher authorities, Aronovich has denied that he possessed secret information for the simple reason that for a long time he had not worked at secret plants and the questions with which he had previously had contact have since been dealt with more extensively in public literature.

The reliance on secrecy and on the interests of the government are only worn-out excuses, covering up evil. The actual reason is found elsewhere: to inflict punishment upon us, to break up the family, to deprive Felix of a home, to create hardship for him through the traumatic surrounding of loneliness, to brutalize us.

It is clear that this is supported by further actions of the OVIR.

When my younger son, upon receipt of permission to emigrate and upon the order of the OVIR, presented all of the documents necessary to receive a visa and brought to the bank the required fees (for education, for the visa, for the renunciation of citizenship), OVIR refused to grant him a visa on the basis that I was not going together with him.

I stated that I would remain with my older son Felix and would leave only with him. Such questions, by law and by nature, should be decided by the mother. OVIR took this right from me. Despite having been granted permission to emigrate, my younger son Viktor was not granted a visa. He lived for a long time without means of support, without work, and yet could not leave. I tried to avoid fulfilling the illegal demands and appealed to higher authority. They answered that the way OVIR had decided was the way it was going to be. They called me in and notified me that if I did not immediately leave the Soviet Union, the permission already granted to my younger son would be

annulled, the money already paid out would not be returned and, in addition, he would be harshly dealt with. It became clear that we were unprotected by the law.

In fear for the fate of my totally innocent son, I was forced to go away, leaving Felix Aronovich in an empty home. The day of our exit occupies in our lives a place along with the sufferings in the years of World War II.

The destruction of our family by a method of threats and violence is not only a violation of the Declaration of the Rights of Man ratified by the Soviet Union and the conditions accepted by them at the Helsinki Conference, but the actions of the Leningrad OVIR are criminal according to the laws of the Soviet Union. For forcing me, without guilt, a trial, and outside legality, to abandon my son, for the threat of illegal repressive acts, and for the rude violation of the civil rights of my son, the head of the Leningrad OVIR, Mr. Bokov, is criminally liable under Article 171, Section 2 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR. And for the harm inflicted upon us by his criminal acts, he is liable for damages in accordance with Articles 444 and 446 of the Civil Code of the RSFSR, which claim could be satisfied by the unification of our family, that is, by granting Felix Aronovich permission to emigrate.

However, the law on longer works in relation to us. Mr. Bokov continues to work successfully; Felix Aronovich leads a lonely, miserable existence. Soon it will be three years since I have seen my son with whom I had lived for his entire life; soon it will be three years since I have known peace during the day or night.

All this serves as proof that the law does not protect us.

Once in a state of deep despair I addressed to the Soviet leaders a letter written in blood. I asked them to give me back my son. The physicians treating me advised the Soviet leaders that the trauma inflicted upon me by breaking up my family was destructively affecting my health, and that the treatment would be ineffective until the cause of the ailment was removed.

To all this the Leningrad OVIR answered my son in September 1975 with still one more refusal (the third). This time it was without any reason at all. Reliance on secrecy by now has become completely impossible. It is well-known that such sadism leads to physical annihilation of people.

In the south in the Soviet Union there is a chimpanzee nursery. Soviet medical workers are conducting medical investigations in this nursery. They broke up chimpanzee families. The chimpanzees flew into a violent rage. They ran from corner to corner, trying to break out of the cage, but they were not strong enough to deal with iron bars. Gradually, the chimpanzees quieted down and fell. When their blood pressure was measured, it turned out to be very high. As a result of their suffering, the chimpanzees grew ill with hypertension and died.

Nor does a mother have the ability to withstand that kind of suffering.

In the summer of this year Nina Podmadchik unexpectedly passed away. She, like I, fought for a long time to be reunited with her son Yuri, whom the Soviet Union had refused permission to emigrate. She did not survive her suffering and died. This is not death... it is murder by a method of slow torture. When they buried her, Yuri Podmadchik was given permission to emigrate.

It is necessary, in order that all might hear, to cry out to the Soviet Union in the name of all mothers who have abandoned their sons in the Soviet Union: Let our sons go to their living mothers and not to their graves!!!! An oath would thus be taken that people would no longer be brutalized.

According to the law concerning tort damages, on the basis of rights guaranteed to man by twentieth century civilization and in

fulfillment of international obligations accepted by the Soviet Union, I am addressing an appeal to it: Give me back my son!!!! I am calling for help!

IUBOV DINENZON

Felix Aronovich's Address
Aronovich, Felix, Pute Restante, Leningrad 192028 RSFSR, U.S.S.R.
Lubov Dinenzon (mother)
7022 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60626 13121 761-4163.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have served in this House for 17 years. I hope I have served conscientiously and honorably. At the end of this session, I shall retire from the House and return to private pursuits.

Until a few weeks ago, I thought that I would return to my home district with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction—certainly with a feeling of a thorough understanding of the Congress to which I have devoted the major part of my adult life. However, in the past few weeks, certain events have transpired in this House which concern me deeply and which lead me to believe either that I do not understand the House half as well as I thought I did, or that the House is undergoing a deep and fundamental transformation as a result of those tragic events which we collectively label "Watergate."

Until now, it has seemed to me that, although Congress might not have dealt with all problems wisely, it has not been its policy simply and doggedly to refuse to look at a serious national problem, no matter how difficult, no matter how distressing. Yet, I fear that is precisely what it is doing today. It is simply and doggedly refusing to look at the problem of who executed our former President, John F. Kennedy, and why he was executed.

I do not exaggerate. I have chosen my words carefully, and I mean precisely what I say: We do not know who killed John F. Kennedy or why, and the House apparently is uninterested and, in my opinion, shamefully unwilling even to attempt to find the answers.

Many months ago, along with a few colleagues, I introduced a resolution which provides for the establishment of a special House Committee to examine into the death of J. F. K. and the subsequent investigation of that murder by the Warren Commission. My colleague from Texas, HENRY GONZALEZ, introduced a somewhat broader resolution. Since that time, more than a hundred Members of this House have sponsored identical or similar resolutions; in fact, almost exactly one-fourth of the House Members have called for such a special investigating committee. However, we not only have failed to make any progress toward establishment of such an investigating committee, we also have not even been able to get a hearing on the merits before the Rules Committee.

whether the Rules Committee would endorse such a project would, of course, be a matter of discretion on their part, after hearing the evidence pro and con.

However, the Rules Committee will not listen to any of the evidence for the passage of the resolutions. It will not listen to evidence that a real and very serious problem exists. Despite our appeals and our offer to share with them the hard evidence that has moved us to sponsor our resolutions they refuse to give me and the other hundred odd sponsors even a hearing on the merits.

There is to be no hearing, no evidence, no witnesses, no vote, no nothing.

This is not only difficult for the many, many Members who have sponsored the proposed legislation to understand, it is a regrettably poor answer to approximately 80 percent of the American people who do not believe that their leader was cut down by a "lone nut."

Why would there be reluctance on the part of the leadership and the committee. Have they been told by the Intelligence Community, which, incidentally, possibly acted as sole investigator for the Warren Commission, what really did happen to our young President, and why? Do they know who was behind the killing? Is it too horrible for the American people to face?

You will recall that there was a reluctance on the part of many to approach the impeachment program 2 years ago. Many cautioned that such a public exposure would be more than the American public could stand. However, we did our duty, the Republic did not collapse, the American public did not fall apart, and the country was better off knowing the truth.

And over on the Senate side, when the Church committee began to look into foreign assassinations and assassination attempts by U.S. agencies, we heard the same cries that the public could not stand it. Yet, Senator Church and his colleagues did their duty. They carefully examined a number of U.S. sponsored murders or murder attempts abroad, and printed the results in a thick report. Again the pillars of the Republic did not crumble.

Why is it that we seem to think the public can assimilate the truth about the killings of foreign leaders but cannot tolerate—and is not entitled to—the truth about the assassination of their own popular, elected President?

It would seem strange to me that the wrongful death of their own President is of less concern to the American people than the deaths of the leaders of Vietnam, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, et cetera, et cetera. Yet, it is that truth that is being withheld from them.

Let me interject at this point that I have no clear idea whatever of the forces behind John Kennedy's death or the motives for the killing. What I do know is that there is an overwhelming abundance of evidence—physical, documentary, and scientific—that indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been a lone assassin.

Equally as important, a mass of evidence has come to light which indicates

that the Warren Commission unfortunately may have made no real effort to get to the bottom of the killing. They were prohibited in many instances by the U.S. intelligence community which acted collectively as their sole investigator. Evidence which has come vividly and dramatically to light in recent months was withheld from the Commission. Some of it has been revealed by committees and subcommittees of this House. It points to a cover up. The Commission deserved better than that. The American people deserved better than that.

All of this notwithstanding, there is still this unwillingness to let the House find out the truth. Someone apparently does not want us to see the evil, hear the evil, and certainly does not want us to talk about it.

The question is frequently put: "Even if you are right, what is to be gained by reopening the Kennedy case?" Our answer from the beginning has been, "the truth," but this answer does not seem to satisfy. One would think that truth about the death of a President in a democracy such as ours would be sufficient cause for reopening the case. After all, if a President is eliminated, not by a "lone nut" but for political reasons, is not the whole fabric of our form of government in direct danger if we cover up the political motivations and go on as if nothing happened?

Mr. Speaker, in the 11 months since I became convinced of the need for a re-investigation of the assassination by a Select Committee of the House, I have learned a great deal about the circumstances surrounding the death of the late beloved John F. Kennedy. I have learned far more than I ever expected that I could learn. I am frank to admit that I have learned far more than I ever wanted to learn.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, with all of this knowledge which has been forced on me has come the alarming realization that—to use a time-worn phrase—I have only touched the tip of the iceberg. Without subversive power, without the official backing such as the House of Representatives, no one has any real chance to get to the solid facts of the issue.

What has been equally amazing to me has been the marvelously high degree of interest shown by the American people and continued to show in the unexplained death of their leader. They want to know the truth. In every case where the people have been polled, the response calling for a new investigation has been overwhelming.

Following the death of President John F. Kennedy, a Presidential Commission was established to secure the facts about that murder, and to assure the American people that all of the facts had been secured and that all of the facts had been reported to the American people.

Today, more than 12 years after that tragedy, a substantial portion of the evidence remains locked away in the National Archives where the American people and their representatives, the Members of the Congress, cannot see it. Even more surprising, more than a decade after the publication of the Warren Commission Report—which asserted that one

man was responsible for the assassination—every poll taken by a reputable news organization during the last year has revealed that the vast majority of the American people do not believe that central finding of the Warren Commission.

CBS revealed that 65 percent of those polled in its recent national survey said that they believe that there had been a conspiracy to assassinate the President.

The Philadelphia Daily News conducted a survey in that city last year which showed that more than 90 percent of those who responded to the question supported the reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. The recent Detroit News survey showed that 87.3 percent of those questioned there said that they believed that a conspiracy was responsible for the assassination.

A distinguished former member of the Warren Commission, President Gerald R. Ford, has publicly stated that another investigation would be in order. He has, therefore, joined with two Warren Commission lawyers, David Belin and John Hart Ely, in understanding the need for a new investigation and in supporting such demands.

The Saturday Evening Post, responding to this widespread feeling in the United States, has called for a new investigation and offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those who murdered the President. Major newspapers, including the Boston Globe and the New York Times, have called for Congress to investigate.

During the last year, more students at our colleges and law schools throughout the country attended lectures on the subject of the assassination than on all other subjects combined. At Purdue University in Indiana, about 7,000 students listened to a lecture and watched a film about the assassination for more than 6 hours. In Monroe, La., 4,800 crowded into the Coliseum to hear a similar talk.

This matter, obviously, remains high on the American agenda now, more than 12 years later. It is an issue which will not, which cannot die until our people are satisfied that they know the truth, all of the truth. That is why 125 Members of the Congress have joined with Congressman GONZALEZ and me in sponsoring a resolution to establish a committee to investigate a crime which so many Americans consider to be an unsolved crime.

What argument can be offered against such an investigation or against permitting Congress to at least vote on this question? That it is too expensive? Are we not willing to authorize a \$350,000 investigation into how one reporter secured a report? Are we not willing to provide 10 full-time independent investigators in that search? The Warren Commission conducted its investigation without a single independent investigator. It relied almost exclusively upon the reports it received from the FBI.

As a result of hearings held by Congressman EDWARDS' FBI oversight committee recently, we learned that the FBI deceived the Warren Commission, and destroyed a crucial document, and never so informed the Warren Commission.

March 18, 1970

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 2097

Many Americans believe that it is more urgent and now more important to determine who killed President Kennedy than it is to determine how Mr. Schorr got his hands on a report. I agree that it is important. I believe that most of the Members of this House, if given the opportunity to vote on this vital question, would also agree. I believe further that credibility in our institutions can only be enhanced by our full and public commitment to all of the truth. I believe that our people, those we represent on this floor, those who in overwhelming numbers have stated that they do not believe they have been told all of the truth, are entitled to the facts and that this issue will not pass until the American people are satisfied that the truth has been told.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, that concludes my statement, but I will submit and ask unanimous consent to submit an ample amount of information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. That material will be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of all of this is to try to get the Congress, and mainly the Committee on Rules, to reconsider its former decision to not even look at this evidence. I would be hopeful that the Committee on Rules would give us this opportunity, particularly since 125 of our colleagues have sponsored similar resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, the people want to know the truth. They are not afraid of the truth, and perhaps in the conduct of this investigation we may find ways in which to minimize assassination attempts on future Presidents.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, my plea to the Committee on Rules is to reconsider and give us the opportunity to go into this matter anew.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

(Mr. LAGOMARSINO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of legislation to conduct an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the late President Kennedy, I regret the recent Rules Committee decision not to consider House Resolution 574 or like legislation to this purpose.

The specter of assassination has loomed ominously over the political scene for more than a decade. President Kennedy was the first in a succession of public assassinations and assassination attempts. Yet, speculation and controversy surrounding his murder continue to escalate even as we approach the 13th anniversary of Mr. Kennedy's death. Theories and suppositions abound in the press and in the media while—as I am sure all Members here today can testify—mail pours into Congress requesting a reopening of the murder probe. It is becoming more and more apparent that the Nation is dissatisfied, if not disbelieving of the Warren Commission Report.

In my opinion, it is unconscionable that the Congress would allow this matter to continue unresolved any longer. Inasmuch as almost one-third of this body has cosponsored legislation to reconsider this Presidential assassination, I believe that, at the very least, the House membership should be given the opportunity to vote on whether or not to further study this sensitive and persistent issue.

To ignore the problem as new, and previously undisclosed, evidence mounts concerning the matter could be to ignore the truth, or at least not present an opportunity to ascertain the truth. Therefore, I strongly urge that the House be allowed to hear the arguments, pro and con, surrounding the legislation in question, and to work its will.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to indict anybody in this investigation of the assassination and I certainly do not indict the members who constituted the Warren Commission because those men were able, dedicated and patriotic Americans who did the best job they could under the circumstances. But we now know that there was a raft of evidence which was withheld from the eyes of those gentlemen and which has now just come to light. We are getting this under the Freedom of Information Act, although there was much that was not available to us without the subpoena power. I do not know what that information will reveal but I am sure just from the very documents that we have gotten recently that it will be most interesting and I think it would shed some more light on the matter.

In my judgment, the Warren Commission either did not see these facts, were not shown them or, if they were, they might have concluded that it was in the best interests of the country at that time to close the report and to rely on the single-bullet theory. Had I been a member of the Warren Commission and had I thought it was in the best interests of the country at that time I might have done similarly. Now it is 12 years later and we now know the American public can stand the shock that can come if the truth is told.

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from California.

(Mr. MINETA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Downing resolution—House Resolution 432—to create a select committee to investigate the assassination of President John Kennedy which the Rules Committee last week decided not to consider.

I rise today because I, along with 65 percent of the American people—according to a recent public opinion survey—doubt the findings of the Warren Commission. Over the past several years, more and more people have begun to question the Warren Commission's meth-

ods and conclusions. Too many questions remain—questions regarding Lee Harvey Oswald's background, the single bullet theory, the capabilities of the supposed murder weapon, Jack Ruby's association with the FBI and organized crime, and the alleged discrepancies between the testimony and evidence given to the Warren Commission and its published conclusions.

Mr. Speaker, the list of questions and allegations could go on for many hours, and that is the point. The American people are entitled to have their questions answered.

I do not stand today and portend to know who did, or did not kill John Fitzgerald Kennedy. I only know that the American people are not satisfied with the Warren Commission's conclusions and, as such, I believe a full investigation by a select committee would help to dispell these doubts.

I respectfully urge the Rules Committee to reconsider its action and allow the full House to determine whether there is a sufficient number of Members who share my view that the American people have a right to have their questions regarding the John Kennedy assassination answered.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate his assistance in this whole matter for a period of months.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MATHIS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

(Mr. MATHIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MATHIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to pay tribute to the gentleman from Virginia for the leadership he has taken in this area that I consider to be very, very vital in order that the faith of the American people might be restored to some degree in their institutions of government, because I do not think there is any question but that they have been deceived either deliberately or through error on the part of distinguished men who served on the Warren Commission. I think that the public has been deceived. I think the public has a right to know.

The gentleman from Virginia with the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) have provided leadership in this area, and I am very much appreciative of that.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that this body, his district, and this country are going to miss very much the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) when he retires at the end of this session from this body. We all regret seeing him go.

Every one of us, almost without exception, remembers that date of November 22, 1963, where we were and what we were doing at precisely the time we heard the news on radio, television, or whatever it might have been, that President John F. Kennedy had been shot at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Tex. I think what we have a right to know now as Americans is not only where we were and what we

were doing, but why that tragic series of events came together all at that particular point in our Nation's history.

I would like to ask the gentleman from Virginia at this point what the procedure would be that he intends to use to try to get this matter to the floor. Is there a way that we can in fact, frankly, bypass the Committee on Rules to try to bring a resolution to the floor, or must we now under the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia go back to the Committee on Rules and ask for reconsideration?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. There is a procedure, of course, with which the gentleman is very familiar, known as a discharge petition, which requires the signature of 218 names. I would hesitate to take this route because it is flaunting the Committee on Rules, and I have the greatest respect for every member of that committee. I would hope that we could go back again to the Committee on Rules and beseech them to reconsider the matter and take it under consideration.

As I said, I have heard rumors to the effect that the Committee on Rules is talking about this very thing. I think as a last resort we could go the discharge petition route, but I hope that that would not be necessary.

Mr. MATHIS. I sincerely hope that the gentleman is correct in his assessment that there will be reconsideration by the Committee on Rules of this very important matter and that we will not have to go the historical discharge petition route.

But if we should have to go that way, I will pledge to the gentleman my support in attempting to obtain the signatures of as many Members in this body as possible to try to bring that resolution to the floor.

I think it is imperative that we move with a great degree of expedition on this matter because of the fact that every day that passes, memories dim, witnesses disappear, as the gentleman knows, and the record has shown exactly how many people who had some part, however minute, in that sorry display of things that happened in Dallas, are no longer with us for one reason or another. Witnesses are not available, and the longer we wait, the less likelihood there is that the American people will ever know the truth about what happened on that miserable day in Dallas.

I again commend the gentleman for his leadership in what he has done. I pledge to him my continued support, and I hope that other Members of this body, in addition to the 125, will join him and our distinguished friend, the gentleman from Texas, in sponsorship of this resolution and will continue to press not only the Committee on Rules but other Members of the House in the hope that we can get a resolution to the floor where we can have some kind of select committee established so that we may be able once and for all to let the American people know what was involved, lay some rumors to rest, and let America once again at least have one burden removed from her conscience.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from

Georgia for his kind comments about the gentleman in the well. I do appreciate them. Also I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership early on in this resolution fight before it was so generally publicly popular. The gentleman from Georgia has been a real wheel horse and he has been like a bulldog: He will not give up.

Mr. MATHIS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the gentleman from Georgia has been called a great deal worse than wheel horse. I take that as a compliment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, the question of who killed John F. Kennedy continues to intrigue Americans and will continue to do so because of the extraordinary mystique of the Kennedy family which fascinates the American public. So long as our doubts about the assassin of President Kennedy remain unresolved, speculation about the event will run rampant.

The conflicting evidence and the uncertain theories must be clarified in the name of truth, out of respect for our legal tradition of conclusion of law based on findings of fact. Contrary to that tradition, however, is the present status of the John F. Kennedy assassination phenomenon.

The issue is clouded by unresolved conflicts including the one-bullet theory, the direction of the bullet, conspiracy, and questionable evidence regarding the exit wound. These issues cannot be ignored; they must be resolved for our own best interests, for our posterity, and in the long-term service of truth.

Because of this I support the resolution offered by the gentleman and I join in appealing to the Rules Committee for action on this resolution.

I commend the gentleman for the splendid leadership he has given the House in the service of truth and in resolving this extraordinary issue.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota very much for his kind comments and I thank him for his assistance in this entire effort. He has been a real help, and he is as determined as I that the American public should know the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman who sponsored the resolution which was a little broader than mine but which I have always thought had tremendous merit. I cannot say enough about this gentleman. He is one of the leaders in the Congress. He is one of my friends. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENRY GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I most sincerely thank my distinguished colleague and I wish to take this opportunity to express my regrets about his decision not to seek reelection. When I read this in a newspaper back home there was no way I could get hold of him to try to find out if that was a fixed and inflexible decision, or whether he could reconsider continuing his great public service in the Congress. I sincerely regret that he made the decision to devote full time to

his family, which is understandable, but at the same time many of us sincerely regret his decision. I particularly regret it because we have been working in our joint efforts to try to center some kind of congressional action on discharging the congressional responsibility to review the circumstances surrounding the death of President Kennedy, and in respect to the more than a decade following his assassination—the violence on the national level, all of which impacted on national and governmental processes.

When I introduced what is now known as House Resolution 204, it was the first one, and I deliberately provided for a review by the Congress of the key points involving this decade of assassination beginning with the death of John Kennedy, but at that time it was not very well understood even then, but it turned out that it coincided with the beginning of a deep inquiry on the part of more than a dozen individuals throughout the various States and the Nation and coincided with very disturbing developments that had come to light in the summer of 1973.

Everything that the distinguished gentleman from Virginia has said is a very accurate chronological description of what has happened to most of us. I think it is true to say that the country collectively, and we individually, were a lot more innocent in that period that we refer to following November 1963 than we are now. Many, many things have happened. I know in my own case, I see clearly that things we had always considered not possible of happening in America—or if they were to happen were wholly unacceptable—now seem to be accepted.

The threat of assassination of national leaders seems to be the sort of thing we have come to accept. We used to think that coups d'etat and political assassinations in order to change the course of power of government, that those were things wholly foreign and abhorrent to the American way. Today there is a tendency to say, this is world-wide. It is a phenomenon. We are part of it. We have to accept it. We live in the day and time of murders, assassination, cold-blooded killings of innocent people, men, women and children for some cause, sometimes a defined cause, sometimes a nebulous cause.

We do live in an era of violence, but the only opposition since I introduced House Resolution 204 has come from very isolated cases of individuals, of about three or four who have bothered to write and say, "Why do you seek to stir this up?" On the other hand, I have received thousands of letters of support.

Even as the gentleman from Virginia said awhile ago, even if it is true that there was an assassination plot or some type of a conspiracy, what good is that going to do the Nation? How will that serve the national purpose. They seem to want to change the old scriptural injunction:

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

They would change it to:

Don't know the truth, because it might make you free.

They seem to be the same kind of people that have been throughout the ages afraid of freedom, afraid of truth. But what is it that we must fear? What can there be in the circumstances surrounding the death of President John Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, the attempt on George Wallace and others? What can there be about these incidents that have made it impossible for the only body in the Nation, able and sufficient to do a thorough job of not necessarily just investigating, or in the absence of a word, snooping around here and there, but in assessing what this has done to the American democratic republican form of government; for, indeed, it has had an impact.

We now have a unelected President. We have an unelected Vice President, that I do not think would be there unelected had President John Kennedy not been assassinated.

I doubt seriously that the 25th amendment, which in my opinion continues to be pointing a revolver at our heads in the sense of stability and continuity in the democratic processes of our Government, never would have been adopted if President Kennedy had not been killed.

Why now? Why should the Congress feel that it is a responsibility on their shoulders? Well, because it goes to the heart of the matter about which Congress is all about and everything else. Are we then to accept the rule of the bullet, rather than the ballot, which is, in effect, what we are doing?

There is ample precedent for the Congress to have in order a judicious, a serious review of these facts and evaluation. There are many serious-minded Americans, some of whom the distinguished gentleman from Virginia has referred to, that have on a scientific basis raised very serious questions that demand answers, at least an honest attempt to get an answer to their well-pondered questions.

There are many other individuals, ranging from some who started their queries in the very beginning, when it was very difficult, I am sure, for them to have raised the question, "We think it was more than one man." Men such as Mark Lane, and many others, who have since followed very early in the game, frankly at a time when I thought, "Well, it is really too early to speculate because we have the Warren Commission looking into this."

But, at the time of the Warren Commission it is impossible to try to reconstitute the environment that existed at the time the Commission was trying to operate. The pressure was on it daily to produce something. It had been in activity less than a year before the pressure increased and heavy demands were made, such as, "Why have you not come up with something? What is it you are dragging your feet on?"

The distinguished gentleman from Virginia has enumerated the facts that now prove to be failings in the method and manner in which that was conducted in 1964, mostly. We cannot help but agree, but we were innocent and many, including, I am sure, all of the

members of the Warren Commission with perhaps one or two exceptions, were certainly, as I view the record of the Warren Commission and the many exhibits that it incorporated into its volumes of exhibits, show clearly that certainly Allen Dulles had more than a passing knowledge of some things that now look to be accusing and have been enshrouded in an attempt to be submerged, obscured and not evaluated or considered at all.

I can understand many of the remarks that are now in cold print attributed to some of the other members of the Commission because, as the gentleman from Virginia said a while ago, if we too had been on the Commission at that time, we might have succumbed to the tendency to try to accept some things on face value that needed to have been followed through. There is no question now, the record is there and the record is irrefutable.

The assassin, presumably Lee Harvey Oswald, was more than just some loner. His background and associations beyond doubt in New Orleans, the very lurid attempts that have been very graphically brought out by the once district attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, on the part of the Federal agencies to impede his investigation, not help it, should have been very disturbing to us at the time that was occurring. Yet, nobody really much cared because Jim Garrison, apparently in the public eye, ended up in ridicule and in failure in his attempts to bring one or a select number of individuals to account.

But, we must remember that this was an American tribunal; it was an American prosecutor, no matter how vengeful or how wrong he appeared before a court of new jurisdiction, presented evidences, many of which have since been substantiated. As far as I know, Jim Garrison was the first to proclaim loud and clear that some of our agencies that had been charged by the Congress for foreign work were in violation of their charter, doing domestic work that was wholly inimical to the purposes for which the agency was founded.

So, there is no question in my mind that there is a clear responsibility on the part of the Congress to look into this. Again, I have not gone off into any particular theory or concept or accusation, because I think this is the reason why we want a responsible committee to look into it. I think that nobody in the United States can properly look into this matter unless he is assisted by such a body as a congressional committee, invested with the right of subpoena. There is no question here that the distinguished gentleman from Virginia and I are in complete agreement.

At any rate, I wind up as I started, by thanking the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) for seeking these special orders and for the great work he has done in concentrating House attention for the need of this type of committee.

Mr. Speaker, one might argue that it is not true that there is still much debate regarding the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Did Booth really kill

him? Who else was involved, who was not brought to justice?

While this is true, you cannot compare more than a decade of political assassinations with single instances of assassination in our country. There has been no similar period of history in our country. There has been no similar period of history in our country which began with the murder of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., on November 22, 1963.

During this more than a decade the electoral system has, for all practical purposes, been manipulated, either deliberately or through a strange set of circumstances. The American people have been denied options and the democratic process thwarted.

What is the Congress responsibility? Well, I would think that as the elected Representatives of the people it would be our responsibility to look into the nagging questions which have not been answered, and to do so would mean the creation of a select committee with subpoena power.

This is what I have advocated since February 19, 1975 when I introduced House Resolution 204 which, if approved by the House, would establish in the House a select committee for the purpose of studying the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Gov. George Wallace.

I have pushed for the enactment of such legislation in the House because I sincerely feel that there is everything to lose if we do not act courageously in the pursuit of truth. If conspiracy existed in connection with even one of these deaths, or the attempt on Governor Wallace, then we cannot have a free electoral system until such conspiracy is fully exposed and dealt with.

I have chosen not to deal directly with the various theories regarding any of the assassinations because I feel that it is difficult to develop a case in respect to any of them without an official investigation—with subpoena power. The lack of subpoena power has, of course, hampered the ability of countless individuals engaged in research on the assassination.

These researchers, among them distinguished pathologists, writers, political scientists, and others in various fields of science, have done a credible job, and should be called upon by the Congress to pool their studies for use in the investigation I am advocating.

There are literally thousands of articles and books written about the recent political assassinations, many of which are worthy of our close study. Robert Sam Anson has written a good comprehensive study of the John F. Kennedy assassination entitled: "They've Killed the President! The Search for the Murderer of JFK" which is available in paperback, by Bantam.

Another book which deals with the assassinations I have listed which is worthy of study by Congress is being published this month, entitled: "The Assassinations—Dallas and Beyond—A Guide to Cover-Ups and Investigations," the book

is edited by Peter Dale Scott, Paul L. Hoch, and Russell Stetler (Random House).

Mr. Speaker, when I first introduced House Resolution 204 a year ago February, I did it alone, without too much hope that other Members of this House would join me in my effort. Since that time many other House Members have joined me. My good colleague, Congressman THOMAS DOWNING, introduced the same resolution last April, but specified a study of the John F. Kennedy assassination only, because he feels that it is easier to make a case for a reinvestigation of that assassination.

Between the two of us we now have more than 125 cosponsors, yet the House Rules Committee has thus far refused to formally consider these resolutions.

Why not? Are we going to hide our heads in the sand, because we are afraid of what we might find out? The truth will make us free—free to continue to conduct the elections in a free and open manner, free of the fear and doubt that rob the people of faith in their national Government.

We need this investigation more than ever now with revelations of recent date which prompt us to ask: What was the Cuban connection with the murder of J. F. K.? What was the role of the FBI in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King just prior to his death at the hands of an assassin?

Many of us have had lingering questions which have gone unanswered regarding the death of U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, a candidate for the Presidency, and the attempt on Gov. George Wallace, also a candidate for the Presidency. Why was convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt dispatched to Milwaukee by Charles Colson, to search the apartment of Arthur Bremer?

There are many unanswered questions and much controversy regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of Robert Kennedy. I have, among my voluminous files on the assassination an interesting exchange between ballistics expert William W. Harper and the Washington Post regarding a story done by Ronald Kessler in which Mr. Harper says that Mr. Kessler misquoted him.

Kessler's story was headlined "Ballistics Expert Discounts RPK 2nd-Bullet Theory", but Harper, despite many letters to the Post has not been able to get a follow-up story which would more truly convey what he said to Kessler.

There is no assurance that a congressional committee will find out any more about these assassinations than what is already known, but I contend that if anybody can, it will be done through the congressional study which I propose.

I really cannot think of any one issue of any more importance in this election than this.

We need to act courageously in the pursuit of truth, and we need to act now.

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Texas for his tremendous contribution in

this area. The gentleman from Texas was in the motorcade the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

Mr. Speaker, in my mind one of the most outstanding individuals to address the varied aspects of the death of John F. Kennedy is a well-known attorney and physician from Pittsburgh, Pa., Cyril Wecht, B.S., M.D., LL.D., J.D.

He is the coroner of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pa. He is a research professor of law and director of the Institute of Sciences of Duquesne University School of Law. Dr. Wecht is the youngest former president of the American Academy of Forensic Science. Dr. Wecht, a leading authority on the Kennedy assassination, is one of very few individuals who have examined the autopsy photos and X-rays.

I have asked Dr. Wecht to let me have the benefit of his research into this matter, and he has provided me with the following letter which I insert at this point:

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

I am grateful for this opportunity, through Congressman Downing, to express my views to the Congress on the many questions which still surround the assassination of President Kennedy and which continue, more than twelve years after the event, to cause deep concern and doubt among so many of our people. I wish it were possible for me to address you in person, with slides and films to show you in detail exactly what is wrong with the Warren Commission's explanation of the shooting. In this brief summary, I can give you only a few highlights.

In lieu of a detailed presentation, I have attached to this statement a number of articles I have prepared over the past several years. While even these are not the entire story, they will describe to you the fundamental weaknesses in the Warren Commission's single bullet theory and show you why I have concluded that there must have been two gunmen firing at President Kennedy. These articles have not been refuted. Indeed, they have scarcely been addressed.

I am primarily a medical man and a practitioner of science. I try to work only with facts and evidence, and I avoid speculative theorizing wherever I can. As a result, my views of the JFK assassination perhaps lack the sensational quality which so attracts the news media. I cannot offer you any CIA, Mafia, or international villains. But I do think I can prove to you that this case is unsolved, or at least incompletely solved, and that there has been a certain amount of governmental skulduggery in the official representations about the case. That alone, I should think, would be enough to stimulate further investigative action. Beyond this, however, with the evidence presently available, I cannot go. That is up to such bodies as the Congress.

There are those who will tell you that all the important questions about President Kennedy's assassination have been answered and that nothing of legitimate concern remains. They say, with a maddening glibness and an indifference to facts, that the skeptics who persist with their questions are negative activists nipping over details of no significance, that there are some kinds of people who can never be convinced anyway, and that the doubt which continues to plague the nation is just another emotional aberration of our times, if not worse.

But these defenders and apologists for the Warren Report never face up to the really hard evidentiary questions about the case. Some of them do not deal with matters of evidence at all, and probably could not tell you, between their scoffs, even such fundamental things as the locations of the

President's and Governor Connally's wounds. Instead they sneer at the frailness of some of the questioners and compare them with the stature of the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the FBI, the CIA, and the White House itself. Already forgetting Watergate and all its sequelae, the Sevens, the Buckleys, and the Krafs tell us that established authority alone ought give us assurance of truth.

The second and third string defenders do occasionally attempt to meet objections on evidentiary grounds, but when they do they usually pick only the weakest and most outlandish criticisms as their targets. Creating strawmen by focusing public attention on the absurd, they make a great show of bowling them over, thus managing to cast doubt on the sanity of everyone else who dares question the case. If you think I exaggerate here or imagine too much, I invite you to read the details of my encounter with the staff of the Rockefeller Commission in the attachment entitled "A Post-Mortem on the Warrenfeller Commission". This article will also show you what kind of intellectual integrity and ethical scruples are still being practiced in some parts of the Executive Branch.

I cannot go into the details and specifics of my objections to the Warren Report's single bullet theory in this summary, or why these objections lead inevitably to the conclusion that more than one assassin was involved. For these I must refer you to the attachments, particularly the rather lengthy article entitled "The Medical Evidence in the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy". But I must point out, at the expense of being obscure to those not familiar with the details of the case, that there are no less than three ineluctable flaws in the single bullet theory which remain unrepaired to this day, any one of which is sufficient to destroy the theory and with it the Warren Commission's lone assassin conclusion. They are:

(1) In regard to the wounds of Governor Connally and the non-fatal wounds of the President (back and throat wounds), there is no plausible postural alignment of the two men which will allow the locations and pathways of their wounds to be reconciled with the theory that the wounds were all caused by one bullet and which is also consistent with the viable positions and movements of the two men as seen in the Zapruder film and other photographic records. Moreover, the non-fatal wounds in the President, by themselves, cannot be reconciled with the alleged location of the Commission's single assassin and the visible position of the President as seen in the films.

(2) The timing and nature of the movements and reactions of the two men in response to their wounds (or any other postulated stimuli, such as the sound of a missed shot), again as seen in the Zapruder film and other photographic evidence, is simply not compatible with the theory that both men were struck by the same bullet.

(3) The essentially intact condition of the bullet designated Commission Exhibit 399, which has been theorized as having caused all these non-fatal wounds in the two men, including the fracture of two bones in Governor Connally (chest and arm) and the deposit of several fragments of lead in at least two separate anatomical locations while retaining an unpunctured copper jacket, is totally at variance with the experience of myself and of every other forensic pathologist with whom I am acquainted.

These are overwhelming objections to the single bullet theory, singly and collectively. They have not been answered, despite all kinds of absurd claims about tumbling or backward traveling bullets, delayed reactions, lurching cars, early shots through the trees, reactions by Governor Connally to the sounds of gunfire, and a variety of other specula-

March 18, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 2101

tions unworthy of mention. The plain fact is that the men were hit by separate bullets, one of which (most likely the one which hit the President, in view of the indicated near-horizontal trajectory) escaped the car after passing through him. But of course the die-hard defenders of the Warren Report cannot admit to this, because to do so is to concede that there had been another gunman, inasmuch as Oswald's gun could not be fired twice in the short time span between the wounding of the two men. Their response has thus been either to ignore these questions, as did the Rockefeller Commission, or to dismiss them as mere "details" of the kind one can never explain. The second piece of tape on the Watergate door was a detail, too, but fortunately someone other than one of our national pundits found it.

I want to emphasize that my objections to the Warren Report have nothing to do with the CIA, the Mafia, Oswald as an FBI agent, E. Howard Hunt perched in a tree, or the Illuminati. They simply concern the basic question of how the shooting could have been accomplished, which ought not to be too much for the public to demand in regard to the assassination of its President.

Moreover, it may still be possible to resolve some of these problems, and others related to them, if only some authoritative body would take the initiative. As an additional attachment, I have appended a "Suggested Priority List for Investigating Medical and Scientific Questions in the JFK Assassination", which suggests some relatively straightforward lines of inquiry that might be undertaken. Many of these suggestions amount to no more than securing the release of data and records already known to exist within the Executive Branch. Surely, if nothing else has been learned from the past few years of American history, we must be aware that the judgment and discretion of the Executive Branch are not the best guides for what the public may be allowed to know.

If the defenders and apologists for the Warren Report have their way, all effort to resolve these questions would be given up. Apparently, they would prefer to live with the distrust of virtually a whole generation of our young people, and let the history books of the future say that the Government of the United States could not adequately explain the murder of one of its Presidents.

I urge you not to let this happen. The questions about this case may be difficult to answer, and we may not like the answers if we get them. But to turn away from them, pretending that they have been answered or, worse, that it does not matter, would make us all parties to the crime.

CRAIG H. WECHT, M.D., J.D.
March, 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that the additional material which I had hoped to include in this edition of the Record cannot be inserted until a cost estimate has been obtained from the Government Printer. So that material will be inserted, hopefully, in Monday's Record. I direct the attention of the Members to the statement concerning the actual assassination situation that will appear in the Record then.

Mr. McDONALD of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on August 9, 1975, our distinguished colleague from Virginia, Mr. THOMAS DOWNING, delivered a speech on the subject of the Kennedy assassination to the Virginia Commonwealth Attorneys Association. It is a powerful argument which I believe accurately and persuasively summarizes the conflicts in evidence and testimony which lead me to believe that Congress must act swiftly to

reexamine the assassination of President Kennedy.

At this point, I would like to include that speech in the Record.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS N. DOWNING TO VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 9, 1975.

The legislation that I have introduced over the past 16½ years is usually limited to certain areas. Generally, they are matters in which the First Congressional District has a high degree of interest: Merchant Marine, port activities, shipbuilding, fisheries, space research, and national defense matters. In addition to these, there have always been certain areas of national priority in which I have tried to reflect the interests of the district.

I suppose that is why nobody seems to be able to understand why I introduced a resolution in April calling for the creation of a select committee of Members of the House to study the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy. It doesn't seem to fit my image. But if you will bear with me for a little while, I will try to explain it.

None of us will forget what happened in Dallas almost 12 years ago. I was as stunned as any American. Congress had adjourned and I had gone home for the weekend.

When I had the first news that the President had been shot, I prayed that it would not be fatal. And then I found myself in somewhat of a trauma for the next few days as word came of his death, the swearing-in of LBJ, the plane ride back to Washington, the lying-in-state and the sorrowful funeral procession ending at the grave with the eternal flame.

In the midst of all of it came the capture of Lee Harvey Oswald and his subsequent murder—live on television—by Jack Ruby in the basement of police headquarters in Dallas.

It was all so unbelievable, yet all so true.

Then came the appointment of the President's Commission, chaired by Chief Justice Earl Warren. They investigated and reported, concluding that there was no evidence of conspiracy and that Lee Harvey Oswald, alone and unassisted, was responsible for the death of President Kennedy and the wounding of Governor John B. Connally of Texas. And there the matter was supposed to rest for all time.

I did not believe it.

I did not believe that one man could have fired three shots in six seconds from a cheap, foreign made, single shot bolt action rifle with the deadly accuracy credited by the FBI and the Warren Commission. No way.

The great majority of Americans, it seems, never believed it. Yet except for a comparative few people no one attempted to do anything about it. The Warren Commission was sacrosanct. Its members included, in addition to the Chief Justice of the United States, Senators Richard B. Russell of Georgia and John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, Representatives Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Allen Dulles and the noted attorney and former high commissioner of Germany, John J. McCloy. Their position of eminence was bolstered by that of the Chief Investigative Agency of the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation under its Director, J. Edgar Hoover.

During the intervening years a sizable group of experts about the assassination and the resulting investigation has developed. They include attorneys, physicians, college professors, former government investigators and specialists in a number of fields. Many of them have extremely high degrees of expertise.

Among them is a young man named Robert Groden who is particularly adept and imaginative in the field of optics. Groden

obtained a copy of the eight millimeter color movie of the assassination taken by the late Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas dress manufacturer who was in Dealey Plaza that day.

Enlarging each of the movie frames that showed the fatal shot to President Kennedy's head, Groden put them back in sequence at a slow motion so that it is possible to view the event from a greater enhanced perspective than you would get in watching a home movie at normal speed. He has taken a film to a number of college campuses and appeared with it before thousands of students. He also had it on late night television twice earlier this year.

In April students from the University of Virginia who had seen the presentation, asked members of the Virginia delegation in the House to take a look at it. They brought Groden and the film to Washington and I was one of five Members who saw the presentation.

It is difficult to explain in complete detail what the film shows but you can see Kennedy grab his throat and start to lean forward after being shot high in the back. A second or two later you see Connally's face distort and he starts to crumple into his wife's lap. Then with the President bending forward with his head thrust slightly down, he suddenly bolts upright and backward as his head literally explodes. His body slams back against the back of the seat and then bounces to the left toward his wife.

I have seen this film shown a number of times since then and there are always people in the group who gasp at the impact. My immediate conclusion was that he was hit from the right front more than likely by someone who was firing from the so-called grassy knoll. I concluded that in all probability the Commission was wrong. There had to be more than one assassin.

I waited several days and considered all the aspects then I introduced my resolution.

It went in originally with the co-sponsorship of Bill Whitehurst and Herb Harris. I have reintroduced it on three other occasions and now there are thirty sponsors in all with the promise of still additional support.

Nobody pressured me to introduce this resolution. Nobody even tried to persuade me. I did it because I believe that the American people have lived for almost twelve years following that terrible day in Dallas without knowing the truth, certainly without knowing the whole truth; and that in a time when we have had a great many other myths exploded and brought to light, it is time for the truth, the whole truth, to be known about what really happened to John F. Kennedy.

I am in no way trying to criticize the members of the Warren Commission. The American people, however, have faced terrible truths in the last few years, truths which few of us ever expected to have to face, and our nation has survived. I believe it is time that we bring this one out into the open.

As everyone in this country knows so well, Lee Harvey Oswald was never brought to trial. As literally millions of Americans watched on television, he was gunned down by Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police station, less than 48 hours after the murder of John Kennedy. As a result, no prosecutor was faced with the problem of prosecuting Lee Harvey Oswald for the first degree murder of President Kennedy. However, it is a most interesting exercise for prosecutors to look at the theoretical situation with which a district attorney would be faced if Oswald had not been himself murdered and if he had been brought to trial.

As a prosecutor, what would you have going for you? In a warehouse building along the parade route, near the scene of the crime, the police found a Mannlich-Carcano rifle which had been purchased through the mail by Oswald. Three cartridges which had been fired by that gun were found on the sixth

floor of the warehouse, the Texas school book depository. A nearly perfect bullet which might have been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano was found on a stretcher in the hospital to which President Kennedy and Governor Connally were taken for emergency treatment. That in evidence is a lot of the positive evidence linking the suspect to the crime.

But even this evidence has its weak spots. For example, there is no clear record, despite the fact that Oswald worked in the Texas school book depository, of how or when the gun was taken into the building. There is also considerable evidence that a second rifle, a 7.65 Mauser, was also taken from the building by the police. There is no way of knowing when the cartridges had been fired in the Mannlicher-Carcano; they could easily have been fired at an earlier time and placed in the building. Although the pristine bullet found in the hospital appears to have been fired from the gun, there is no clear evidence whatever as to how it got onto a stretcher in Parkland hospital.

And now let's look at what a defense attorney would have going for him in this same case.

1. Despite a multitude of people in Dealey Plaza, no credible witness could be found that saw anyone firing a rifle. It should be noticed in passing that, despite this total lack of eye witnesses, a rather good physical description of the alleged murderer went out over the Dallas police radio 14 minutes after the last shot rang out. The description matched Lee Harvey Oswald, but no one has explained how the police at that time had any idea for whom they were looking.

2. The great majority of spectators believed that the shot came from in front of the President's car, from a place generally called the grassy knoll. The police officers riding along side the presidential car dropped their motorcycles and rushed to this area.

3. Approximately 90 seconds after the last shot was fired, Lee Harvey Oswald was found on the second floor of the school book depository, drinking a coca cola. If, in fact, he was the assassin, in that 90 seconds he would have had to conceal his gun, cross the whole width of the large warehouse descend five flights of stairs, find a dime, get his coca cola, open it, and calmly begin to drink it. This sounds more like a decadent champion than Lee Harvey Oswald.

4. The Mannlicher-Carcano is a very cheap (\$19.95) surplus World War II Italian carbine. It is a bolt action, single shot, fourth-rate gun, hardly the type that any serious assassin would even consider.

5. There is no trace of the source of the ammunition used in the murder. The Italians quit manufacturing ammunition for the Mannlicher-Carcano during the closing years of World War II. Any of this old ammunition would be highly unreliable. The only known source of new ammunition for the gun was the United States Government. It has never been determined from which source the assassin actually obtained the ammunition.

6. For the Mannlicher-Carcano to be fired three times in six seconds, the use of a clip is almost imperative. Yet, no clip was ever found.

7. The telescopic sight on the rifle was defective. At the range it was being fired in Dealey Plaza, it was off approximately eleven inches... an almost fatal flaw in itself under the circumstances.

8. The FBI's ballistic tests on the bullet fragments taken from President Kennedy, from Governor Connally, from the automobile, etc., were inconclusive. In effect, there was no positive ballistic evidence connecting the bullets with the alleged assassin's gun.

9. A paraffin test was made on Oswald's right cheek and it turned out negative, indicating that he had probably not fired a rifle that day.

10. Oswald himself denied the killing.

On top of this rather hopeless evidential situation, you would also be faced with a number of most serious constitutional defects.

First and foremost, Oswald was questioned for a total of 13 hours during his 48 hour detention. Despite his requests for legal assistance, he was never furnished with a lawyer. Lawyers from the Civil Liberties Union who volunteered were turned away. Yet, the questioning went on. On top of that, the Dallas police force has given sworn testimony that there is not a scrap of evidence as to what Oswald said during the 13 hours of interrogation. According to the police, the Dallas police force did not own a tape recorder. Further, they did not even bother to have a stenographic record of the interrogation. More incredibly they say no notes were taken. It is difficult to believe that any judge or jury... with the exception of the Warren Commission... would accept such statements as true.

There was massive tampering with evidence. Despite a Dallas ordinance that an autopsy must be performed by the coroner in cases of violent death, no autopsy was performed in Dallas. Despite the protests of local authorities, the body of President Kennedy was forcibly removed to Bethesda, Maryland, where a grossly inadequate autopsy was performed by three military pathologists with little, if any, forensic experience. On top of this, the contemporaneous notes of the chief surgeon were later burned by him in the fireplace of his recreation room... he later swore that he did not think they were important. Many of the X-rays and photographs which would normally be taken during a competent autopsy were found not to exist.

The car in which the President was riding at the time of his death, was completely dismantled by the secret service and all evidence relating to it was destroyed.

Oswald's wife, who apparently had nothing to do with any crime, was held in "protective custody" for a number of months. For all practical purposes, she was held incommunicado.

I could go on and on with this list but I think I have made my point that any prosecution of Lee Harvey Oswald would have been undermined by the most serious constitutional abuses.

Until now, I have been discussing the problem of a prosecution of Oswald, not necessarily as the sole assassin of President Kennedy, but merely someone who may have played a role in the assassination. As we know, the Warren Commission insisted most strongly that Oswald was unassisted in his commission of the crime.

What new problems would be raised if it were necessary to prosecute Oswald as the lone-but killer? Is there any way in which a prosecutor could convince a jury that he and he alone had committed the act?

Let us go back for a moment to the Zapruder film of which I spoke earlier. Knowing that the film in Mr. Zapruder's camera ran at 18.3 frames per second, it is possible to determine very accurately the time frame in which all the shooting took place. It is known... and the Warren Commission concurs... that 5.6 seconds elapsed between the first shot and the final shot which hit John Kennedy in the head. For practical purposes, let's round this off to six seconds. Now remember that this is a single shot, bolt action rifle. After each shot a cartridge had to be ejected by the bolt, a new bullet put into place and the gun re-aimed. Some of the world's finest riflemen have practiced with the Mannlicher-Carcano but none have been able to re-load, re-aim and fire accurately in less than three seconds. This means that in the time frame for the firing, a maximum of three shots could have been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano, the initial shot plus two re-loads.

Remember these limitations and just think that only a single gunman was involved the Warren Commission insisted that all of the damage done during the fusillade was done by three shots. The Warren Commission admits that one shot missed the target completely, striking the street curb. One shot hit President Kennedy in the head and disintegrated. That left only one shot which, for convenience sake, has often been labeled the "magic bullet."

According to the Commission, this shot entered President Kennedy's back, exited his adam's apple, went through Governor Connally's chest, broke a rib, went through Connally's wrist shattering it, and wound up in his thigh. This is the bullet which allegedly was found undamaged on a stretcher in Parkland Hospital.

If the "magic bullet" is central to the whole contention that Oswald was a lone-but killer, let's examine its feasibility.

If the shot fired by the murderer came from the sixth floor window of the School Book Depository, their course would have been downward and to the left. If a bullet had entered the President's back and exited his adam's apple, it should have either hit Mrs. Connally who was sitting in front of the President and to the left, or harmlessly struck the side or floor of the car. To have hit Governor Connally on his right side, when he was sitting directly in front of the President, the bullet would have to have made two 90 degree turns in mid air. From this evidence alone it can be deduced that Governor Connally was not gravely injured by any of the bullets which struck President Kennedy, something which Governor Connally insists to this day. Furthermore, the "magic bullet" that was taken from the stretcher was pristine. The only lead missing from it was that removed by the FBI for tests. Yet, a great deal of lead was left in Governor Connally's chest and wrist when the bullet that struck him struck bone.

From this mass of evidence, all serious critics including a number of eminent pathologists, criminologists, and lawyers have all concluded that there must have been at least four shots at Dealey Plaza.

As no one has been able to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano four times in six seconds, we know that there was at least a second rifleman if the Carcano was used in the killing. This means a conspiracy. This means that the Warren Commission was wrong on its central thesis.

There are a number of other very disturbing aspects to this matter which are of particular interest to prosecutors. A huge amount of vital evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission... presumably, it would have been withheld from a prosecutor.

The FBI was deeply involved with this withholding of evidence. As an example, the Dallas police turned over to the FBI an address book which belonged to Oswald. In it was one page which gave the name, address, telephone number and license plate number of an FBI agent in Dallas. The FBI removed this page from the book before turning it over to the Warren Commission. Eventually the Warren Commission got the page but did not seem upset that it had been willfully withheld. The FBI also withheld much of the evidence which linked Jack Ruby to organized crime, to Cuban gamblers, to the narcotics trade, and last but not least, to the FBI itself. It has only recently been discovered that Jack Ruby was formerly enrolled as an FBI informant for quite a period of time.

Time does not permit me to go into this matter as deeply as I would wish tonight, but I would like to give you just one more example of this type of withholding and of what smacks of a serious cover-up. When Lee Harvey Oswald went to Mexico in September

of 1963, he had to obtain a Mexican entry card from the Mexican consulate in New Orleans. These cards are numbered serially. After the murder, the FBI obtained from the Mexican consulate a list of all of the persons who obtained entry permits in New Orleans on the same day that Oswald obtained his. The FBI did a massive investigation with respect to these people and published the results in detail in the volumes of evidence accompanying the Warren report. There was only one small exception. The identity of the person who received his permit immediately ahead of Oswald was never made public.

In 1972 following a periodic review, a list of commission documents which had formerly been withheld was released. Among them was the missing information about the man who obtained the permit. He was William George Gaudet, who was based in New Orleans and traveled widely in Latin America in 1963. A previously withheld FBI report, dated coincidentally the day after Jack Ruby murdered Lee Harvey Oswald, says that William George Gaudet gave them details as to certain of Jack Ruby's activities, not in Dallas, but in New Orleans.

William George Gaudet has been interviewed. He admits that he did receive his entry permit immediately ahead of Oswald. He denies that he accompanied Oswald to Mexico. He also admits being a CIA operative from 1947 until 1969.

He says that he was guaranteed that his identity would never be made public and was quite irritated at the FBI for having revealed his name, even at this late date. He says emphatically that the FBI is lying when it says that he volunteered information about Jack Ruby in November of 1963.

From the interviews with Gaudet it has been learned that Lee Harvey Oswald was known to agents in charge of the CIA operation in New Orleans in 1963. Their identities and whereabouts are known.

Lee Harvey Oswald certainly was no hero and I am not trying to make him one, but I do not believe that he was the lone-out assassin that the Warren Commission says he was. I do not know who was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy but I think it is time that all of us learned the truth. Our system of Government cannot remain strong if our leaders can be murdered and the Government itself consents to covering up the crime.

Mr. McKINNEY. I regret very much that this discussion has had to occur for I had hoped that the Rules Committee would have given its approval to House Resolution 204 over a year ago. Had it done so, many of the nagging questions in the minds of so many Americans could have long since been put to rest. Frankly, I am baffled at the committee's intransigence for I know its members to be men of integrity who have demonstrated a constant willingness to bring progressive and worthwhile legislation to the floor.

Like most Americans, I have no new information nor have I devised an intriguing theory. Simply, like most Americans, I have questions—too many questions and too few answers. I have said before that the citizens of the United States—by their very nature—are not a conspiratorial lot nor do they believe in conspiracies and I numbered myself among them. However, certainly the events of the past few years have caused many of us to question what before we took as gospel truth. There is merit—we have learned—in being inquisitive.

At the very least, what is at stake here is the credibility of this Government and the faith of its people have in it. The

Watergate hearings demonstrated to all the unique character of a congressional investigation, a method which brought out truths not yet revealed. There are many today who feel a House select committee can accomplish that same goal. I agree and I would hope that in time, the Rules Committee will agree as well.

Mr. SYMMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House an interview with Dr. Cyril Wecht, the only independent pathologist critic of the Warren Commission to examine the classified autopsy material in the Archives.

It is particularly interesting to note Dr. Wecht's comments that his examination of all the available medical evidence leads him to conclude that the Warren Commission's single bullet theory is incorrect and that his study of all available evidence proves that the assassination was committed by two gunmen.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the text of the interview contained in an article in *Citizens Quarterly* in the *Record* at this point:

Dr. Cyril Wecht—From the Cutting Room Floor

(By Amy Blotcher)

Dr. Cyril Wecht, currently Coroner for Allegheny County (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and former President of the American Academy for Forensic Sciences, has been the only independent pathologist critic of the Warren Commission to examine the classified autopsy material in the Archives. CCI spoke to him on February 12 and obtained the following interview.

CCI. What are your feelings about the recent CBS Special which you participated in?

Dr. Wecht. Well, I think it was a one-sided presentation and I think it's unfortunate that they edited in the fashion they did. They completely emasculated the presentations that several of us made. I know that Mark feels that way about his, I do about mine. Other people's interviews wound up on the cutting floor completely; they never even survived as much as thirty seconds. So I think it was not an honest, unbiased presentation on CBS' part.

CCI. Can you take any recourse?

Dr. Wecht. No. I've written letters to tell them what I think, but there is no legal recourse and I'm not going to get involved with writing to the FCC to demand equal time. I don't think that I would be successful.

CCI. Could you explain the autopsy photograph of the head with what appears to be a flap attached?

Dr. Wecht. I don't know what it was. I'm very concerned about it. Indeed, I am doubly concerned because nobody else has ever made mention of it. It is there, there can be no doubt about it. I'm very suspicious about the fact that the original pathologists and subsequent medical people who reviewed this on behalf of the government, namely, the Rockefeller Commission panel (1975), and the Ramsey Clark panel (1968), have never commented on it. It could simply represent a piece of tissue, or it could be a small exit wound.

CCI. Was it a flap of skin?

Dr. Wecht. I don't know. It's a piece of grayish white colored material and it could be everted skin.

CCI. How do you classify the President's throat wound which all the doctors at the Parkland Hospital at first described as being an exit wound?

Dr. Wecht. Well, as you know, the throat wound was obliterated by the tracheostomy. So the examination of the photographs and everything else at the Archives does not permit me to make any further observations

since the original margins are completely gone. I can only go by what is present in the original reports. Based upon that evidence and correlating it with the wound in the back, the neck wound would seem to be a wound of exit. But that's not based upon direct observation of the wound. That's just based on all those items of evidence that are known to me.

CCI. Do you think that Exhibit Number 399 could have done all the damage that was claimed by the Warren Commission?

Dr. Wecht. No. I do not. The bullet that supposedly hit both Kennedy and Connally weighed 158.6 grains when it was recovered. Before it was fired, that type of ammunition would have weighed between 160 and 161 grains. Therefore, the bullet in question lost only approximately 1.5 per cent of its original weight after being fired.

Yet this bullet supposedly entered the right side of the President's back, coursed through the uppermost portions of the thorax and mediastinum, and exited from the midline of the anterior neck region at about the level of the knot of the tie. Then this "magical missile" allegedly entered the right side of Governor Connally's back, broke his right fifth rib, exited from the anterior aspect of his right chest, entered his dorsal right wrist area, where it shattered the distal radius, and finally entered Connally's left thigh.

We're expected to believe that after doing all this damage, the bullet emerged with a total weight loss of only two grains. It's simply not possible for a bullet to leave grossly visible particles on X-rays in four different anatomic locations in two human beings and emerge with a loss of substance amounting to only two grains out of 161.

On top of this, the condition of the bullet after allegedly causing all these wounds was virtually pristine. The upper two-thirds of the bullet show no grossly visible deformities, or any other kind of mutilation. This is not characteristic of a bullet that has struck two bones, particularly a dense bone like the distal radius.

CCI. Having been the only Warren Commission pathologist critic to examine the Archives autopsy material, do you feel that there is enough information to support conclusively the Warren Commission theory on the source of the shots?

Dr. Wecht. No. On May 7, 1975, I testified by deposition for approximately five and a half hours before the Rockefeller Commission, to the effect that the Warren Report's principal conclusion, namely that the President was assassinated by a lone gunman, was wrong and absolutely irreconcilable with the medical and scientific evidence in the case. In several technical papers I had previously published on the case, it is true that I had stated that the available medical evidence, assuming it to be valid, gives no support to theories which postulate gunmen to the front or right-front of the Presidential car. However, in addition to the medical evidence, there is other evidence to be considered. The crux and primary thrust of my testimony, as well as the papers I have published, is that the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory is wrong, and that the available medical, physical, and photographic evidence all prove that the assassination was carried out by two gunmen.

Although the official report mentions the microscopic examination of the periphery of the small occipital wound, no mention is made of a similar examination of the periphery of the large, gaping wound on the right side of the head. Without such an examination and other studies such as neutron activation analysis, we cannot be sure that there was not a second wound of entrance in the head contained within the large gaping defect on the right side. I mention this only because of the extremely persuasive evidence on this point in the Zapruder film. I have

seen this film in the superior copy owned by Life magazine. Quite clearly, the President's body moves sharply backwards and to the left following the impact of the fatal shot. It seems to me extremely unlikely that his body would have moved in this direction if he had been struck from above and behind as concluded by the Warren Commission; however, it is a physical possibility that I cannot rule out.

Ms. ABZUG. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of House Resolution 204 to create a select committee for the purpose of conducting a "full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace. I urge the House to accept this inquiry, or to accept House Resolution 498 which I also cosponsored, which is limited to an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy. I believe it is important to have as broad an investigation as possible since the critical issues to be explored are the role of Government law enforcement and intelligence agencies in these investigations as well as the pervasive secrecy which still shrouds their activities and procedures. The issue of secrecy and the role of the FBI and CIA are present in varying degrees in each of the assassinations and consequently if they are to be explored adequately the select committee should have jurisdiction over all of them.

Mr. Speaker, every poll, every contact with our constituents, every learned observation of the populace reinforces the conclusion that people have lost faith in their Government, particularly faith that their Government does not lie to them. This loss of faith can be traced to that fateful day in Dallas when John F. Kennedy was shot down. It grew and was nurtured by other lies which the Government told to the American people during the Vietnam war and during Watergate, but it was surely not assuaged by the handling of the investigations into the John F. Kennedy and King assassinations.

Since the publication of the "Report of the Warren Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," volumes and volumes have been written attempting to discredit the conclusions and methods of that study and investigation. I want to state as forcefully as I can that I do not support all the critics' conclusions, nor am I convinced that the Warren Commission had before it all of the relevant data to support its conclusions. The point is that I, and millions like me, simply do not have enough information upon which to make an informed judgment concerning the Warren Commission findings and the criticism to which it has been subjected.

For example, as chairman of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, my subcommittee held hearings last November on the National Archives and its handling of Freedom of Information Act requests for access to the Warren Commission files. There was some indication that certain informa-

tion was not available and that certain documents are still not available to historians and researchers.

In fact, there is information in the National Archives concerning the Warren Commission's investigation which is not available to Members of Congress. This is all the more astonishing when we consider another revelation of the hearings conducted by my subcommittee on this subject—namely, it is doubtful if anyone had authority to classify documents originating with the Warren Commission as secret or top secret. That power was simply assumed by the Commission's counsel, but there is little or no justification for his having done so.

Following the hearings conducted by the subcommittee, one witness, David Belin, who was a member of the Warren Commission staff and Director of the Rockefeller Commission study of the CIA, stated that he believed that the Warren Commission inquiry should be reopened in order to once and for all lay to rest the unfair charges against its conclusions. While I am not in a position to conclude that any findings will or will not stand the test of further inquiry, I certainly agree that it is necessary to finally settle the still open questions, particularly the role of the FBI in the investigations of the murder of Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

Mr. Speaker, it is too obvious that nothing any inquiry can do will bring back the great men who have been cut down by assassins. But there are lessons to be learned from the manner in which the agencies of Government charged with investigating and studying these tragedies performed their duties. We can learn a good deal about the need for secrecy of so many documents, about classification policies, about political pressures, about how the FBI conducts an investigation. I urge that any House interested enough in the Daniel Schorr matter to establish a special inquiry should not hesitate in opening an inquiry into these far more significant questions.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I am troubled by some of the questions that continue to be raised about the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of President Kennedy more than 12 years ago.

The feeling of persistent, nagging doubt that the country has learned all the facts is shared by a considerable number of people in the south Texas district I represent here. They desire, and I support, a reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The investigation should be of sufficient scope and carried out in such a way as to settle once and for all the questions that prey on the minds of many Americans.

As a people, we pride ourselves on our regard for the truth. Our quest for the truth—the whole truth—about the assassination should be pressed forward in order that this dire chapter in our national history can be brought to a conclusion.

Mr. BIAGGI. I am pleased to participate in this special order to discuss the

urgent need to establish a select committee of Congress to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As a cosponsor of this resolution I feel strongly that Congress must take this important step so that the many doubts which have racked this Nation regarding the assassination can be dispelled.

I was most disturbed over the decision of the House Rules Committee to prevent the full House from having the opportunity to debate this resolution. We have again seen this committee employ arbitrary and high-handed tactics to block consideration of legislation which it opposes. They took this action despite the fact that these resolutions enjoy more than 125 cosponsors and are supported by millions of Americans who consider it a national disgrace that there are still so many lingering and unanswered questions regarding this monumental event.

Congress has never officially investigated the Kennedy assassination. Exclusive responsibility for investigating the assassination was vested in a Presidentially appointed commission which reported its findings based on the limited amount of evidence it had at its disposal. Anyone who has had the opportunity to read Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment," or who has viewed the horrifying film of the assassination by Abraham Zapruder would agree that a sufficient number of basic questions have been raised which merit a new full-scale investigation into this tragedy.

The questions which are raised go right to the very heart of the assassination. Was there more than one gun fired? Was there a conspiracy involved? Was the Dallas Police Department responsible for failure to provide better protection for the President? Was the Warren Commission as objective as it could have been? Did they pursue all possible angles to the case? Does the new evidence present basic new evidence which was unavailable to the Warren Commission.

We cannot allow these fundamental questions to go unanswered any longer. Even the President who was a member of the Commission stated that if sufficient new evidence was available it could merit a new investigation. I feel it is time that this investigation was begun and I urge the House Rules Committee to reverse itself and allow this issue to be debated on the House floor in a responsible manner. The more we let this issue go unresolved the more emotional the debates will become. Let reasonable men make reasonable judgments. The American people will be the better for it.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

generating axons. The second type of necessary action, given the provision of these materials, is support of studies targeted directly on the mode of action of NGF and other extrinsic factors with the objective of increasing the prospect of extending the presently abortive sprouting and regenerative activity in the mammalian nervous system.

B. TRAINING

As research problems concerning growth and regeneration in the nervous system come into sharper focus, it is becoming clear also that relatively few of the persons now engaged in neurological research in the United States are adequately trained in those concepts and techniques of cell and developmental biology that the becoming fundamental to further progress on regeneration. At the same time, the increasing numbers of cell biologists, chemists, immunologists and others who are turning their attention to neural growth generally lack the requisite background for something as complex and plastic as the mammalian central nervous system unless they also receive further training. Our recommendations:

1. Establish increased number of Institutional Training Awards, focusing on environments where developmental neuroscience is (or can be encouraged to become) closely integrated with the broader disciplines of cell and developmental biology.

2. Establish a mechanism for the retraining of selected relatively senior professionals, e.g., via a Visiting Investigator program that would underwrite visits of 1-12 months to laboratories active in developmental neurology in general or expert in some particular pertinent technique.

3. State a particular interest in the field of nervous system growth and regeneration in fellowship announcements and other channels of information.

4. Recognize the particular dearth of expertise in the neuropathology of trauma at the present time. Historically, this has not been the most vital area of neuropathology, and yet the extraordinary advances in developmental neurobiology in recent years have made available a powerful set of new methods of microscopy and microchemistry that should be engaging the attention of the current generation of trainees in neuropathology. A few excellent training programs in the neuropathology of trauma would seem essential to produce the personnel who should form the crucial link between the experimenters working with animals and tissue cultures on the one side and the clinicians on the other side. The pathological problem of trauma to the human spinal cord and brain, and indeed the much more general problem of focal destructive disease of the nervous system, must be viewed in terms of the concepts and laboratory techniques now coming to the fore on the experimental side of developmental neurology. Yet today, it is virtually impossible to identify a single young neuropathologist in the whole country who could take a position with an academic group focusing on spinal cord injury research.

5. Reorganize and expend the staff, space and budget of the intramural regeneration research program of the NINDS in Bethesda so as to provide a training focus as well as a strong research focus. The NIH has excellent examples where an intramural program over a period of years has trained virtually all the outstanding investigators of the nation in a particular field.

C. PLANNING AND COORDINATION

1. We recommend formation of a standing advisory committee on Nervous System Growth and Regeneration to monitor research in this area and make ongoing policy recommendations to the NINDS. This recommendation is based on our recognition that the topic is fast becoming a central research

theme in the neurosciences, and one of fundamental relevance to the long-range prospect of effective therapy (as opposed to prevention) of many forms of stroke, focal epilepsy, chronic multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation, in addition to traumatic injury of spinal cord and brain. Clearly the field is ripe for a push.

2. We recommend that the Institute prepare a budgetary projection, to be added to its present commitments, that would encompass its plan for promoting laboratory research programs aimed toward accomplishing effective regeneration in the central nervous system. These laboratory programs should be distributed nationally among about a dozen Centers of Excellence (Program Project size) and a much larger number of small groups and individual grantees, the latter working especially in problem areas where urgency is great and predictability is low.

3. The Institute should encourage national lay groups with interests in particular neurological diseases to recognize a common objective in promoting laboratory research on nervous systems at cellular and molecular levels in whatever species or systems may yield the most powerful understanding of normal function and disease.

4. The Institute should coordinate and partially underwrite the presently somewhat haphazard efforts to exchange ideas among neuroscientists nationally and internationally, including conferences, laboratory workshops, visiting lectureships and preparation of focused bibliographies.

Mr. Speaker, this May, I am calling a 1976 meeting, the fifth in this annual series. I am especially grateful for those Members who have participated in the past and will welcome participation by all Members again this year.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HINSHAW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, it has become increasingly disconcerting to me that certain established facts, with direct bearing on the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy, have been omitted from the final official report by the Warren Commission.

Hearsay evidence could not persuade me to accept this conclusion. Scant and insufficient evidence could likewise be ignored. But the regularity with which carefully documented data continually comes to light, its obvious contradictions to the Commission's published findings, and its conspicuous absence from the Warren Commission report command further responsible and thorough investigation.

While I concur with the observation that a further investigation at this time may be too tardy, it is my feeling that, in a case such as this which manifests an unmistakable omission of facts as well as an incomplete effort, the credibility of the Federal Government to conduct or even require a thorough and exhaustive study is seriously undermined. To be faced with a situation where any citizen can read for himself the errors and inaccuracies in an official report of this nature, leads those same individuals to

question the resolve of the Government to dig for the truth in a multitude of other areas, and to doubt its basic commitment to the tireless search for the full and complete truth in every decision made. Daily, we are confronted with criticism by the media and press, aimed at the holes in our logic, the gaps in our data, the inaccuracies in our statements, and finally, charges against us not only of ignorance but of willful conspiracy to conceal certain information from the public. The investigation of the CIA, the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act, the current debate over nuclear regulation, and numerous other recent developments should sufficiently warn us, as Members of Congress, to pursue the truth to wherever it leads. We, as a national effort should take every criticism of the Warren Report and every piece of new information and respond in a detailed analysis to these conflicting views and information.

Again, we are facing the electorate in a year when faith in Congress and other national leadership falters. I support this resolution in an effort to establish a complete, full, and accurate public record on this specific matter, and will pledge my efforts to likewise pursue the facts on every important matter which may come to my attention on this subject.

IMPROVING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Ms. HOLTZMAN) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. HOLTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government spends nearly \$1 billion annually in aid for local law enforcement through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. LEAA programs, however, have not done enough to protect Americans from crime.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues testimony which I presented to the Crime Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, in which I offer a number of suggestions for making LEAA a genuinely effective Federal crimefighting program:

TO MAKE LEAA A MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST CRIME

(Testimony of Representative ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, before the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee, March 11, 1976.)

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee on Crime, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to appear before you today to speak about the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Certainly one of the top priorities of government at all levels must be to protect Americans from the ravages of crime—from the death, injury, and fear that it brings. While State and local governments have the primary responsibility for fighting crime, the Federal government—despite the rhetoric of the President and others—has failed to meet its own duty to aid the States and cities in this effort.

LEAA was intended to be the major weapon of the Federal war on crime, but, as testimony before this Committee has shown, it has failed to have significant impact. In 1968 Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, mandating the

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HEARINGS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

ON

RULES

H. Res. 204 and H. Res. 432

Creating a Select Committee on Assassinations

Wednesday, March 31, 1976

Washington, D. C.

Official Reporters to Committees

H. Res. 204

H. Res. 432

Chairman Madden. The next bill is H. Res. 204. I wonder if we could have order, please.

We have H. Res. 204 and H. Res. 432 that are somewhat analogous, and it is for creating a select committee to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King and the assassination attempt of George Wallace.

H. Res. 432 is a different bill along the same line creating a select committee to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy.

(The Resolutions H. Res. 204 and H. Res. 432 follow:)

1 Chairman Madden. What is the pleasure of the committee
2 on the taking of which bill? They are on the same general
3 line.

4 Congressman Gonzalez, you may proceed.

5 STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ, A REPRESENTATIVE
6 IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

7 Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank
8 you, members of the committee, for giving us this time. We
9 know that it wasn't easy under the circumstances but I know
10 that with 64 co-sponsors of the bill it would have been, I
11 feel, not quite fair not to have had some kind of considera-
12 tion of this measure.

13 Mr. Chairman, my distinguished colleagues -- members of
14 the House Rules Committee:

15 When I first introduced this House simple resolution --
16 which would establish a congressional study of the political
17 assassinations of the past decade, and the attempt on the
18 life of Governor George Wallace, a year ago last February 19,
19 I did so alone with little reason to think I would obtain ad-
20 ditional support.

21 Most of the coverage which I got as a result of the in-
22 troduction of H. Res. 204 was in the foreign press -- to my
23 surprise, particularly in England -- the media in the United
24 States was not too interested, and there seemed little indica-
25 tion at that point that there was any interest in Congress.

1 Within a period of a few months all of this had changed.
2 My good colleague, Congressman Thomas Downing of Virginia be-
3 came convinced that there was need to reopen the study of
4 the assassination of President Kennedy, and introduced the
5 resolution last April, but limiting it to a select committee
6 to restudy the assassination of President Kennedy, and intro-
7 duced the resolution last April, but limiting it to a select
8 committee to restudy the assassination of President Kennedy
9 only, rather than including the deaths of Senator Robert
10 Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempt of Governor
11 Wallace.

12 We have both made introductions of the resolutions sev-
13 eral times on behalf of ourselves and more than 125 co-sponsors,
14 and the established media has decidedly picked up on the issue.

15 Presently, however, the interest of the media, as well
16 as others has begun to wane. Those, who are losing interest,
17 demand that somehow those of us, who have sought a congres-
18 sional investigation, show them the proof of a conspiracy, or
19 that others, other than the accused or convicted assassins,
20 were actually involved.

21 No, I cannot, nor do I think my good colleague, Congress-
22 man Downing, can produce such proof ^{AT THIS TIME.} As I have told a number
23 of news reporters, as well as several individuals, beginning
24 more than a year ago, if such proof was readily available to
25 me then there would be no need to seek an official investiga-

1 tion. I would just simply make the information known through
2 every means I knew how, and would demand that the proper law
3 enforcement agencies take action.

4 What I do know for certain is this: the more than a
5 decade of political assassinations has caused great harm to
6 the collective national psyche, has fostered great mistrust in
7 our system of government, and fear in the minds of many people.

8 There has never been in the history of this great na-
9 tion a similar period in which so many national leaders have
10 been eliminated by a bullet.

11 You do not have to be a follower of Governor George Wal-
12 lace to see how wrong it is for him to be eliminated from a
13 crucial Presidential race as a viable candidate. It is wrong.
14 because our system of government demands that the people be
15 given options. As well as it being wrong from the standpoint
16 of the Judeo-Christian commandment "Thou Shall Not Kill," it
17 is wrong in our society to shoot down a man or woman in a
18 position of political leadership because such an act manipu-
19 lates our electoral system and thwarts the democratic process.

20 Why, one might ask, do I, and many others, not accept the
21 official findings in respect to each of these assassinations,
22 and the attempt on Governor Wallace? Why do we not want to
23 believe that each of these acts were the result of lone in-
24 dividuals, or lone "nuts," as many would term them?

25 We do not accept these theories because there are too

1 many unanswered questions begging answers, and since Watergate
2 we know that such things as governmental coverups do exist --
3 and at a very big scale.

4 I was in Dallas on November 22, 1963, when President
5 Kennedy was killed. It was a highly traumatic experience
6 for me and many others -- and one which we shall never forget.

7 Many have asked me whether I did not have some questions
8 when this occurred. Well, of course I did, but it was a very
9 chaotic time -- ~~it was~~ ^{IT WAS} before Watergate -- and I wanted to be-
10 lieve, as did most Americans, that the local, state and fed-
11 eral law enforcement bodies would do a good job and find out
12 the truth.

13 Chairman Madden. Will you pardon the interruption. I
14 was thinking if this committee would take up these hearings,
15 you mentioned four assassinations, would your committee if
16 a resolution was adopted, investigate each one separately
17 or take them collectively?

18 Mr. Gonzalez. As I envision it, the select committee
19 would review the circumstances of these four, particularly
20 these assassinations, plus the attempt on George Wallace,
21 and measure them in perspective as they impacted on our demo-
22 cratic and governmental process.

23 Each one of them did have an impact. Each one of them
24 has had such an impact that I believe it is a congressional
25 responsibility to evaluate this.

1 Whether or not in the course of that evaluation you
2 substantiate what amounts to suspicions to date, but substan-
3 tiates as a matter of fact or truth certain contribut-
4 ing factors or other factors wholly unknown or not estab-
5 lished yet to the American people, we believe that nothing
6 but good can come, because none can deny that because of the
7 period of extreme turmoil caused by the deaths of these
8 leaders on the basis of a political assassination, we have
9 had definite and traumatic governmental experiences.

10 We have an unelected President, we have an unelected
11 Vice President and it all goes back to the point of origin,
12 the first assassination, that of President John Kennedy.

13 Chairman Madden. Let me ask this. We all know about
14 the hearings that were held subsequent to President Kennedy's
15 assassination by the Warren Commission. Were there similar
16 hearings begun in these other assassinations that were held,
17 investigated?

18 Mr. Gonzalez. To my knowledge there has been no national
19 or nationwide or national level type of review or commission or
20 study commission involved in the subsequent assassinations.

21 Chairman Madden. Were the investigations by the FBI
22 the only investigations outside of the possibility of state
23 police?

24 Mr. Gonzalez. If I am not mistaken in the death of
25 Senator Kennedy, in the death of Martin Luther King, unlike

1 the death of President Kennedy, the state authorities more or
2 less preempted the prosecution, the enforcement such as it
3 was of the criminal laws.

4 Chairman Madden. But no hearings were held?

5 Mr. Gonzalez. No national commission or p-idential.

6 Chairman Madden. That was my question.

7 You may proceed with your statement.

8 Mr. Gonzalez. I was very suspicious when Jack Ruby man-
9 aged to kill Lee Harvey Oswald right in front of us on tele-
10 vision, but I wanted to believe that the Warren Commission
11 had taken the time to really thoroughly investigate and pro-
12 duce a truthful report.

13 Because I wanted to believe, I did not do any personal
14 investigating, nor was I really aware of the many thousands of
15 Americans engaged in independent research on the John F. Kennedy
16 and later on the other assassinations.

17 I might add as one is prone to do, as things like this
18 happen, all kinds of questions can cross the mind but a sus-
19 picion does not necessarily equate with the truth, and since
20 there were no evidentiary facts along the lines that I sus-
21 pected until August of 1973, I had no reason to do anything
22 but sort of put this on the back burner of my mind.

23 Watergate changed all that acceptance and Belief with
24 me and many other Americans. Prior to Watergate there were
25 already many Americans who doubted that Lee Harvey Oswald

1 acted alone, but after Watergate many other Americans joined
2 the ranks of the doubters of the Warren Report and of the of-
3 ficial findings in respect to other political assassinations.

4 There are several, of course, who question the wisdom of
5 pursuing the course of trying to obtain a congressional review
6 of the findings in respect to these assassinations.

7 One of the first arguments presented against such a
8 move is that it will cost too much money. Also, one might
9 ponder that it is time to go on to the problems of today, and
10 not think about the past. For the most part, I believe in
11 forgetting the past, and looking to the future, but what if
12 the past keeps affecting the future?

13 If it were not for the assassination of President Kennedy,
14 for example, we would not have the 25th Amendment to the Con-
15 stitution of the United States which enables us for the first
16 time in history to have both an unelected President and an
17 unelected Vice-President.

18 That assassin's bullet literally changed the course of our
19 history, and yet we are hesitating about finding out the truth
20 which Oswald took to his grave, because he himself became the
21 victim of an assassin before he had the opportunity to be
22 brought to trial.

23 As the result, we have government information which has
24 been classified for a period of 75 years. I say it is the
25 people's right, as well as the Congress' right, to know the

1 truth -- whatever it is, so that we the people will better
2 know how to handle the future.

3 The recent CBS series on the American Assassins -- which
4 dealt with precisely the same assassinations and the at-
5 tempted assassination which I have asked this House to in-
6 vestigate -- raised more questions than they answered.

7 In many instances it was stated by Dan Rather during the
8 series that CBS was denied access to some particular piece
9 of information. This, of course, has been the problem in re-
10 spect to many independent studies which have been conducted
11 by countless individuals -- including pathologists, political
12 scientists, writers and journalists, social scientists and so
13 forth -- they are denied access to important information which
14 could either prove or disprove their findings. Many independent
15 researchers have been in litigation for years trying to get
16 information or permission to run tests and so forth.

17 Although it did not ask for a reopening of the Warren
18 Report on the John F. Kennedy assassination, CBS did con-
19 clude that there is a need to investigate the possible "Cuban
20 connection" in respect to the killing of the President.

21 I would like to look into the "Cuban connection," too,
22 but I would also like to know more about the whereabouts of
23 certain domestic spies and what they were up to during Novem-
24 ber 1963. As well as his connection with Cuba, I would also
25 like to know what Oswald's connection was with our own intel-

1 ligence community.

2 There are many people who will tell you that if Robert
3 Kennedy had not been assassinated he would have been our next
4 President, after Lyndon Johnson, and not Richard Nixon.

5 I do not necessarily believe that would have been the
6 case, but many will always believe that is what would have
7 been, and the truth is for a fact that, if he had not been
8 killed, a large segment of the Democratic Party would have
9 fought for his nomination to the Presidency right down to
10 the wire.

11 His death -- at an assassin's hand or at the hands of
12 several assassins -- disenfranchised many people from par-
13 ticipating in our system of nominating a candidate for the
14 Presidency of the United States of one of the two major po-
15 litical parties in our country.

16 As long as questions remain regarding the circumstances
17 surrounding the death of Senator Kennedy, as he sought the
18 Presidency, do we dare bury our heads in the sand, and pre-
19 tend there is no need to investigate -- and wait for the
20 same thing to happen to another candidate under similar cir-
21 cumstances?

22 We must remember there have been two attempts on Presi-
23 dent Ford up to date but whether anything -- and God help
24 us, we hope it never will happen again. But suppose something
25 else does happen? What turmoil will we find ourselves in this

1 Bicentennial election year? Suppose we end up with Mr.
2 Rockefeller as President pending the election in November;
3 can you imagine the trauma we will go through again in the
4 country and then the calls for quick investigation, etc.,
5 etc. We have to realize -- and I use this only to make a
6 point -- that the thing is vital. We do have a duty, I
7 believe.

8 I have, for example, been in touch with Mr. William
9 Harper, a California firearms expert, who says that he is
10 still convinced that two guns were involved in the 1968 ass-
11 assination of Senator Kennedy. He says that a Washington
12 Post story on December 19, 1974, to the contrary misrepresented
13 his views. Despite an incredible amount of correspondence
14 back and forth between Mr. Harper and the Post -- he has sup-
15 plied me with copies of all of it -- the Post has yet to publish
16 a correcting story.

17 The panel of experts in Los Angeles, who refired Sirhan
18 Sirhan's gun by court order, were unable to match victim
19 bullets with Sirhan's gun. Attorney Vincent T. Bugliosi, who
20 was previously with the Los Angeles' District Attorney's of-
21 fice, cross-examined each of these experts to substantiate,
22 and feels that the second gun theory is definitely still open.

23 Former Congressman Allard Lowenstein has pursued the re-
24 opening of the study of the assassination of Senator Kennedy
25 relentlessly, and definitely feels that there is need for a

1 congressional investigation.

2 I have heard the argument made by some of my colleagues
3 that they did not want to be a part of reopening the studies
4 of the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers, unless the Ken-
5 nedy family wanted the cases reopened.

6 While I am in the deepest sympathy with the Kennedy fam-
7 ily and their suffering, to paraphrase Mark Lane, who wrote
8 Rush to Judgment, and who has been active in efforts to get the
9 study of the assassination of John Kennedy reopened, we are
10 talking about leaders of a country, not members of a family.

11 Not as much has been written questioning the findings
12 of the Robert Kennedy assassination as the John Kennedy ass-
13 sination, and not nearly as much has been written about the
14 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and the attempt on
15 Governor Wallace, as has been written on the Kennedys.

16 However, recent revelations in congressional hearings as
17 to conduct of the FBI in respect to Dr. Martin Luther King
18 have spurred CBS in its series on assassinations, and others,
19 to call for a complete investigation into the circumstances
20 surrounding the death of Dr. King.

21 In an interview with writer Wayne Chastain, Jr., as re-
22 vealed in a new book, The Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond --
23 A Guide to Cover-ups And Investigations (edited by Peter Dale
24 Scott, Paul L. Hoch, and Russell Stetler, Random House), James
25 Earl Ray says that his guilty plea in the killing of Dr. King

1 was coerced.

2 What is the true story regarding the death of Dr. King?
3 More Americans than just Mrs. Coretta King and I, and the co-
4 sponsors of my legislation, have the right to know.

5 Dr. King was a dynamic force for good in our country,
6 who has never really been replaced. A Nobel Peace Prize win-
7 ner, he was fast becoming the leader of a coalition of peace
8 and labor group members, as well as civil rights activists,
9 when he was taken from us. Whether rightly or wrongly, his
10 death resulted in domestic strife and chaos when we could
11 have kept many tempers under control, if we could have had his
12 leadership.

13 Several months ago Governor George Wallace, who survived
14 an assassin's bullet, endorsed my proposal. He has never been
15 satisfied with the determination that Arthur Bremmer acted
16 alone.

17 For one thing, I would like to know why Charles Colson
18 dispatched E. Howard Hunt, who was later convicted of break-
19 ing into the Democratic National Committee headquarters, to
20 go to Bremmer's Milwaukee apartment before the police got
21 there.

22 I would like to know how Bremmer could finance himself
23 to travel around the country following Wallace.

24 If we find the answers -- the truth -- to the questions
25 I have raised in this statement, as well as many others, will

1 the truth make us free? Yes, it will, for the truth will
2 make us free to pursue democracy -- our system of government
3 -- through the ballot box, and we will not be subject to gov-
4 ernment by bullets.

5 The truth will enable us to prevent such a series of
6 events from happening again.

7 Believe me when I tell you that people from throughout
8 this great country are literally crying to us for the truth.

9 During the past 15 months I have amassed a mailing list
10 of several thousand Americans from throughout the country, who
11 have urged me to continue my efforts to obtain a congressional
12 investigation of the assassination -- from Maine to California
13 and criss-crossing the country the other way, too, as well as
14 from Americans living in Germany, Australia, Mexico, and
15 Canada and England.

16 In a letter I received Monday in response to the mail-
17 ing of my speech given on the House floor on March 18, an at-
18 torney in the northern part of Texas, a former state senator,
19 wrote:

20 "Henry, you are 100% right about these assassinations. I
21 talk weekly with the average citizen on the street, at snack
22 bars and other places. Almost 100% of these people have doubts
23 about how these assassinations occurred. They do not know who
24 to believe."

25 Earlier this year a nun from my San Antonio district

1 improved me to continue my efforts. She commented that she
2 felt that these stories about President Kennedy's personal
3 life were a deliberate attempt to try to portray him as
4 someone unworthy of the truth being known about his death.

5 Whether any of these current stories about John Kennedy
6 are true is, of course, not the question at hand. The ques-
7 tion is, who, if anyone else other than Oswald, actively par-
8 ticipated in killing the President of the United States -- an
9 event which set off a chain of events which greatly damaged
10 the stability and credibility of our government.

11 Richard Sprague is a distinguished gentleman from New
12 York, who has kept in close contact with me and my office. He
13 is a writer and a researcher of these assassinations who is
14 currently writing a book about them. He and Dr. Cyril Wecht,
15 the Allegheny County coroner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,
16 who has been so active in disputing the findings regarding the
17 John F. Kennedy assassination, should be called to testify
18 before this committee.

19 So should Michael Canfield and A. J. Weberman, who wrote
20 Coup D'etat In America (about the CIA and the assassination of
21 President Kennedy) of which I wrote the forward, and Harold
22 Weisberg, who has written a whole series of books regarding
23 all of these assassinations; also Rusty Rhodes of the commit-
24 tee to investigate political assassinations. Each has valuable
25 information.

1 To get the truth many other people will have to be called,
2 including those who apparently destroyed evidence or with-
3 held evidence -- for whatever reason.

4 As years go by, more and more of these people will be-
5 come unavailable through death or whatever.

6 In this Bicentennial year, now is the time to retrieve
7 democracy and to replace our government by bullets with it.
8 It is time for us to act now -- before it is too late.

9 Chairman Madden. Thank you, Congressman.

10 What is the pleasure of the committee?

11 Mr. Delaney. Let's take Mr. Downing.

12 Chairman Madden. Mr. Downing.

13 Any suggestions?

14 STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS N. DOWNING, A REPRESENTATIVE
15 IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

16 Mr. Downing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 First of all I want to thank you and the committee for
18 giving us, Congressman Gonzalez and I, this opportunity to
19 get this off our chests. I know it was a difficult decision
20 for you because this is a very controversial matter, but we
21 feel deeply about it and I suppose the 125 co-sponsors of
22 these resolutions feel the same way.
23
24
25

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE ONE MAJOR CONCERN, ONE PRINCIPAL
MOTIVATING FACTOR BEHIND MY INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 432 IN
APRIL OF LAST YEAR. MY GREAT CONCERN IS CREDIBILITY.

THIS NATION, OUR GOVERNMENT, HAS SUFFERED A NUMBER OF
GREAT TRAGEDIES WHICH WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE UNTIMELY DEATH
OF A PRESIDENT IN OFFICE.

THE PRESIDENT WHO SUCCEEDED PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AS YOU
WILL RECALL, SUFFERED A MONSTROUS LOSS OF CREDIBILITY WITH
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OVER OUR INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
THE LACK OF CREDIBILITY SO OVERWHELMED HIS ADMINISTRATION
THAT, EARLY IN THE YEAR IN WHICH HE HAD HOPED TO WIN RE-ELECTION

TO OUR NATION'S HIGHEST OFFICE, HE WAS FORCED TO TAKE HIMSELF OUT OF THE RACE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, OUT OF OFFICE AT THE END OF HIS TERM.

SIMILAR LACK OF CREDIBILITY OVERCAME HIS SUCCESSOR. THIS LACK OF CREDIBILITY, IF YOU PLEASE, EVENTUALLY GALVANIZED THE HOUSE INTO ACCEPTING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE IN THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS, A PROCESS WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED FORTH TO CONCLUSION HAD NOT THE PRESIDENT BEEN FORCED INTO RETIREMENT AND VIRTUAL DISGRACE.

SO YOU SEE GENTLEMEN, OUR LAST TWO PRESIDENTS WHO PRECEDED THE CURRENT OCCUPANT OF THE WHITE HOUSE SAW THEIR TERMS IN OFFICE ENDED BY A LACK OF CREDIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CONCERNING THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY OPERATED THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND.

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE SEEN THE RESULTS OF INNUMERABLE POLLS TAKEN CONCERNING THE REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION AND ITS CONCLUSION AS TO WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY. WITHOUT EXCEPTION EVERY SURVEY THAT I HAVE SEEN TAKEN BY A REPUTABLE NEWS ORGANIZATION IN RECENT YEARS

HAS REVEALED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FIND A SHOCKING LACK OF CREDIBILITY IN THIS REPORT.

CBS REPORTED THAT 65 PER CENT OF THOSE POLLED IN ITS NATIONAL SURVEY LAST FALL SAID THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT AND CALLED FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION. THAT DEMONSTRATED A SUBSTANTIAL LACK OF CREDIBILITY.

THE DETROIT NEWS SURVEY SHOWED 87.3 PER CENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED LIKEWISE BELIEVED A CONSPIRACY WAS RESPONSIBLE.

THIS IS A GREAT LACK OF CREDIBILITY.

THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS SURVEY REVEALED THAT MORE THAN 96 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED SUPPORTED THE RE-OPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE BOSTON GLOBE HAVE CALLED FOR NEW INVESTIGATIONS. THE SATURDAY EVENING POST ALSO CALLED FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION AND OFFERED A \$250,000 REWARD FOR

INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CONVICTION OF THOSE WHO MURDERED
THE PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN, TO ME THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR, THE WARREN
COMMISSION HAS LOST ITS CREDIBILITY; OUR GOVERNMENT HAS LOST
ITS CREDIBILITY IN THE MATTER OF THE ASSASSINATION; WHENEVER
THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED, THEY HAVE CLAMORED FOR THE
TRUTH.

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1969, DURING AN INTERVIEW AT THE LBJ
RANCH, WALTER CRONKITE ASKED FORMER PRESIDENT JOHNSON IF HE
WAS SATISFIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY
IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S
RESPONSE, WHICH HAS BEEN QUOTED EXTENSIVELY, IS AS FOLLOWS:

JOHNSON: "I CAN'T HONESTLY SAY THAT I'VE EVER

BEEN COMPLETELY RELIEVED OF THE FACT

THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERNATIONAL

CONNECTIONS."

CRONKITE: "YOU MEAN YOU STILL FEEL THAT THERE
MIGHT HAVE BEEN?"

JOHNSON: "WELL I HAVE NOT COMPLETELY DISCOUNTED IT."

AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 27, 1975, PRESIDENT
FORD SAID THAT THERE ARE "SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS" THAT MIGHT
JUSTIFY A PARTIAL RE-OPENING OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

BEFORE HIS DEATH, SENATOR RICHARD RUSSELL, A MEMBER OF
THE WARREN COMMISSION, EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE COMMISSION IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN
ATLANTA.

FORMER WARREN COMMISSION STAFF ATTORNEY DAVID BELIN
LAST NOVEMBER CALLED FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION BECAUSE THE
COMMISSION HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF CIA ATTEMPTS ON THE LIFE OF
FIDEL CASTRO. BELIN SAID HE SAW A NEED TO RESTORE PUBLIC
CONFIDENCE.

LAST FALL, GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE ENDORSED THE
RESOLUTION OFFERED BY MY COLLEAGUE, HENRY GONZALEZ.

ALMOST A YEAR AGO, FORMER SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ANSWERED IN HIS LIFETIME.

THESE ARE NOT ALL, GENTLEMEN, BUT IN EACH CASE THERE IS AN INDICATION THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS NEEDED. I SUBMIT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WHEN THE REPORT WAS MADE.

NOTE, IF YOU WILL, THE WARREN COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION: "THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT OSWALD WAS INVOLVED WITH ANY PERSON OR GROUP IN A CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE THE

PRESIDENT." PRESIDENT FORD HAS STATED IN RECENT YEARS THAT

IT WAS AT HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE REFERENCE TO NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY WAS INCLUDED. THAT IS WHY I FEEL IT IS SO HIGHLY

IMPORTANT THAT WE INDICATE THAT NEITHER OF US, MR. GONZALEZ NOR

MYSELF, FEELS THAT THERE IS ANY LACK OF CREDIBILITY IN ANY OF

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. WE DO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN

NEW EVIDENCE HAS SHOWN ITSELF IN RECENT YEARS WHICH MAKES IT PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT CERTAIN EVIDENCE WAS WITHHELD FROM THE COMMISSION BY ITS INVESTIGATORS AND THAT CERTAIN EVIDENCE WHICH WAS MADE AVAILABLE WAS NOT PURSUED TO THE DEGREE THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN..

THIS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE OBVIOUS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DAY AFTER DAY. IT IS HIGHLY OBVIOUS TO ME.

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE TAKEN A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN DETAILS OF THIS MATTER. SOME OF YOU HAVE JOINED WITH MR. GONZALEZ AND MYSELF IN SPONSORING THESE RESOLUTIONS. YOU YOURSELF, MR. CHAIRMAN, VISITED MY OFFICE TO SEE A SCREENING OF THE ZAPRUDER FILM OF THE ASSASSINATION; AND ALTHOUGH I UNFORTUNATELY WAS OUT OF MY OFFICE AT THE TIME, I WAS TOLD THAT YOU ASKED SEVERAL VERY PERCEPTIVE QUESTIONS.

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE REST OF YOU GENTLEMEN ARE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE GREAT INTEREST IN THIS WHOLE MATTER

THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN BY MANY CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
AND BY MORE THAN 125 MEMBERS WHO ARE SPONSORS OF EITHER THE
DOWNING OR THE GONZALEZ RESOLUTION OR IN MANY CASES, BOTH.

I HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF CONSIDERABLY LARGER SUPPORT ON THE

 If it reaches the floor,
FLOOR. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ONE AMONG YOU WHO

WOULD SAY THAT HE BELIEVES COMPLETELY THE CONCLUSION OF THE
WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH WAS WRITTEN NEARLY 12 YEARS AGO, IN
THE FACE OF WHAT HAS COME TO LIGHT IN RECENT MONTHS.

TWELVE YEARS AGO I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED THAT MY
GOVERNMENT HAD PLANNED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF HEADS OF OTHER
GOVERNMENTS.

TWELVE YEARS AGO I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED THAT THE
FBI WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE
INVASION OF THE PRIVACY OF GREAT NUMBERS OF THE RANK AND FILE
OF CITIZENS OF THIS THE GREATEST DEMOCRACY IN THE HISTORY OF
CIVILIZATION.

TWELVE YEARS AGO I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED THAT THE FBI WOULD HAVE CONDUCTED SURVEILLANCE ON CERTAIN PRIVATE CITIZENS WOULD HAVE MADE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEIR SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND PROVIDED THESE TO A MOST DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE HOUSE. WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE? WHAT WAS THEIR CRIME, IF ANY? WHAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PARTICULAR INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE FBI? THE ANSWER IS THAT THEY WERE THE AUTHORS OF ARTICLES AND BOOKS THAT WERE CRITICAL OF THE WARREN COMMISSION INVESTIGATION.

LAST YEAR, THE SON OF THAT MEMBER RECOUNTED HIS FATHER'S REACTION: "THE IMPACT ON THIS WAS, IF THEY HAD ALL THIS INFORMATION ON THE CRITICS, AND GAVE IT TO HIM AND WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE, WHAT DO THEY HAVE ON US." THE "US," GENTLEMEN, REFERRED TO US -- MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT OUR HIGHLY RESPECTED MEMBER IS NO LONGER ALIVE TO CONFIRM THIS HIMSELF, BUT I VIVIDLY REMEMBER HIS TAKING THE FLOOR SEVERAL

YEARS AGO WHEN HE CHARGED THE FBI WITH GESTAPO TACTICS.

IN THE FACE OF ALL OF THIS, I DOUBT MOST SERIOUSLY IF THERE IS ONE AMONG YOU WHO BELIEVES THAT FURTHER STUDY OF THIS MATTER IS NOT CALLED FOR.

WE COME THEN TO A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES. WHO SHOULD DO THIS? WHEN SHOULD IT BE DONE? YOU ARE WELL AWARE BY THIS TIME, I AM SURE, THAT I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD DO IT AND THAT NOW IS THE TIME. IT IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL PERMIT TO BE SWEEPED UNDER A RUG. NEITHER DO I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL PERMIT THE CONGRESS -- THE HOUSE IN PARTICULAR -- TO SIT HERE LIKE A COLLECTION OF OSTRICHES, WITH OUR HEADS IN THE SAND, WHILE THE PUBLIC CLAMORS FOR THE TRUTH.

1
2 THEY CRY FOR CREDIBILITY. THEY WANT TO BELIEVE IN
3
4 THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY LOOK TO US BECAUSE WE ARE THE PART OF
5
6 THEIR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT IS CLOSEST TO THEM. THEY HAVE
7
8 THE GREATEST POSSIBLE POWER OF RECALL OVER EACH OF US BECAUSE
9
10 WE MUST STAND BEFORE THEM EVERY TWO YEARS AND BARE OUR PUBLIC
11
12 LIVES. WE ARE CALLED UPON EVERY TWO YEARS TO RENEW OUR
13
14 CREDIBILITY WITH THEM OR BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE WITH THE
15
16 CREDIBILITY WHICH WE LACK.

17
18 I KNOW THAT THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR, A PRESIDENTIAL
19
20 ELECTION YEAR. I KNOW THAT THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF
21
22 IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH DESERVE THE ATTENTION OF THIS COMMITTEE.
23
24 SOME OF THEM MUST FALL BY THE WAYSIDE. I KNOW ALSO THAT THERE
25
26 IS MUCH IMPORTANT LEGISLATION WHICH WE NEED TO COMPLETE ON
27
28 THE FLOOR.

29
30 I KNOW THAT MANY OF US NEED TO SPEND AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT
31
32 OF TIME AT HOME IN OUR DISTRICTS, SEEKING RE-ELECTION.
33
34
35 FORTUNATELY, I AM NOT IN THAT POSITION THIS YEAR BUT I KNOW

1
2
3 YOUR NEEDS IN THAT REGARD AND I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR
4
5 THEM. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU IS HERE WHEN THE 95TH
6
7 CONGRESS CONVENES AND I WILL CERTAINLY MISS NOT HAVING THE
8
9 OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU AT THAT TIME.
10
11 I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THE MATTER ON WHICH YOU HAVE ALLOWED
12
13 ME TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY IS ONE OF THOSE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORT-
14
15 ANCE.

16
17 I FEAR THAT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY. I HAVE REACHED NO
18
19 FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS BECAUSE I HAVE STUBBORNLY RESISTED ATTEMPTS
20
21 TO TRY TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER ON MY OWN. ENOUGH EVIDENCE,
22
23 HOWEVER HAS REACHED ME TO SHOW A CLEAR INDICATION OF A
24
25 POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY. I BELIEVE THAT IF THIS INFORMATION HAD
26
27 BEEN KNOWN TO THE COMMISSION TWELVE YEARS AGO, ITS CONCLUSION
28
29 WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

30
31 SOME OF YOU HAVE ASKED WHAT IS THIS NEW EVIDENCE
32
33 THAT I KEEP MENTIONING

1 I call your attention to some of the following
2 documented facts which have been newly released as a result
3 of the Freedom of Information Act.
4

5
6 INTERROGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD
7

8 LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS QUESTIONED BY DALLAS POLICE AND BY
9 SEVEN FBI OFFICIALS FOR APPROXIMATELY 12 HOURS. THERE ARE NO
10 STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTS OF HIS INTERROGATION. NO TAPE
11 RECORDED RECORD OF THE QUESTIONING WAS MADE. CAPTAIN WILL FRITZ,
12 CHIEF OF HOMICIDE, "KEPT NO NOTES." THE SOLE SOURCE OF
13 INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERROGATIONS ARE REPORTS, BASED IN
14 LARGE PART ON MEMORY, PREPARED BY SOME OF THOSE PRESENT AND
15 COVERING SOME OF THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS. THERE ARE NO
16 REPORTS FOR SEVERAL OF THE INTERROGATION SESSIONS ON FRIDAY
17 AFTERNOON. NO TRANSCRIPTS WERE MADE OF OSWALD'S ARRAIGNMENTS
18 FOR EITHER OF THE TWO HOMICIDES WITH WHICH HE WAS CHARGED.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Chairman Madden. You say no transcripts were made.
2 What do you mean by transcripts?

3 Mr. Downing. In other words, there was no stenographer
4 taking notes of the interrogation, no tape recording.
5 I assume each one made individual notes, and then went
6 back and compiled a report. But there was no -- like this
7 gentleman here -- nobody taking notes.

8 Chairman Madden. All right.

9 Mr. Anderson. Could I ask a question at this point?
10 Were those individual notes that were kept by the team of
11 police and FBI officials that interrogated him, were those
12 notes ever produced before the Commission?

13 Mr. Downing. No notes were ever produced.

14 Mr. Anderson. Just a composite.

15 Mr. Downing. Just a composite, which was eventually
16 a report.

17 Mr. Gonzalez. If I may interject a point there,
18 that was contrary to the normal procedural rules of the
19 Dallas officials also. Very unusual.

20 Mr. Downing. May I proceed?

21 Chairman Madden. Go ahead.
22
23
24
25

Mr. Downing.

OSWALD WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY AND WAS MURDERED IN THE BASEMENT OF THE DALLAS POLICE
AND COURTS BUILDING ON SUNDAY SHORTLY AFTER 11:00 A.M.
THROUGHOUT HIS DETENTION, OSWALD WAS WITHOUT LEGAL REPRESENTATIO
INTERROGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD - 2

ON FRIDAY EVENING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DALLAS CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION APPEARED AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE
WHETHER OSWALD WAS BEING DEPRIVED OF COUNSEL AND THEY WERE TOLD
BY POLICE OFFICIALS THAT OSWALD WAS INFORMED OF HIS RIGHTS AND
FREE TO SEEK A LAWYER. THEY SOUGHT PERMISSION TO MEET WITH
OSWALD BUT WERE UNABLE TO MEET WITH HIM.

THE FACT THAT THE TWELVE HOURS OF INTERROGATION BY
FBI AGENTS OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT
DEFENDANT AND WITNESS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY, ARE LOST
TO US FOREVER RAISES THE MOST SERIOUS QUESTIONS. WHAT DID
OSWALD SAY? WHY ARE WE UNABLE TO LEARN OF HIS COMMENTS? ONLY
A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE THAT ASKS THOSE QUESTIONS OF THE

SEVEN FBI AGENTS CAN PROVIDE ANSWERS

BURNED AUTOPSY MATERIAL

THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT AN ANALYSIS OF THE PRELIMINARY AUTOPSY MATERIALS WOULD SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION'S "SINGLE BULLET" THEORY, A THEORY WHICH IS CRUCIAL TO THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION THAT OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN. HOWEVER, CHIEF AUTOPSY SURGEON, COMMANDER JAMES J. HUMES. BURNED "PRELIMINARY DRAFT NOTES" RELATING TO THE AUTOPSY UPON THE BODY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. WHEN HUMES TESTIFIED BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION ON MARCH 16. 1964, HE TESTIFIED THAT: "IN THE PRIVACY OF MY OWN HOME, EARLY IN THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, I MADE A DRAFT OF THIS REPORT WHICH I LATER REVISED, AND OF WHICH THIS (HANDWRITTEN REPORT OF AUTOPSY REPORT) REPRESENTS THE REVISION. THAT DRAFT I PERSONALLY BURNED IN THE FIREPLACE OF MY RECREATION ROOM." COMMISSION COUNSEL ARLEN SPECTOR, AUTHOR OF THE "SINGLE BULLET" THEORY DID NOT ASK HUMES WHY HE DESTROYED A CRUCIAL PIECE OF FEDERAL EVIDENCE IN THE CASE AGAINST OSWALD.

JACK RUBY AND THE FBI

ACCORDING TO COMMISSION DOCUMENT 1052 JACK RUBY WORKED FOR THE FBI AS AN INFORMANT ON ORGANIZED CRIME IN DALLAS FROM MARCH 11, 1959, TO OCTOBER 2, 1959. DURING THAT TIME HE WAS CONTACTED ON NINE SEPARATE OCCASIONS BY DALLAS FBI SPECIAL AGENT CHARLES W. FLYNN. J. LEE RANKIN, GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION BY COURIER SERVICE FROM J. EDGAR HOOVER ON JUNE 9, 1964.

LEON D. HUBERT, JR., AND BERT W. GRIFFIN, THE TWO COMMISSION LAWYERS IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING RUBY'S BACKGROUND WERE NOT PROVIDED ANY INFORMATION ON HIS UNDERWORLD OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFILIATIONS. THUS THE WARREN COMMISSION DID NOT KNOW AND DID NOT REVEAL THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JACK RUBY AND THE FBI.

ROBERT R. McKEOWN & JACK RUBY

IN 1959, WHILE JACK RUBY WAS AN INFORMANT FOR THE FBI, HE WENT TO HAVANA, CUBA WHERE HE STAYED AT THE TROPICANA HOTEL OWNED BY MEYER LANSKY, A KING PIN IN ORGANIZED CRIME. BEFORE RUBY WENT TO CUBA HE ATTEMPTED TO SECURE A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO FIDEL CASTRO FROM ROBERT R. McKEOWN. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT OF McKEOWN, RUBY OFFERED \$25,000 FOR THE LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO CASTRO.

THE YEAR WAS 1959 - THE YEAR ORGANIZED CRIME ENTERED INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO ASSASSINATE FIDEL CASTRO. THE TWO WARREN COMMISSION LAWYERS ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE JACK RUBY'S BACKGROUND LEON D. HUBERT, JR., THE FORMER DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF NEW ORLEANS, AND BURT GRIFFIN, NOW A JUDGE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO INSISTED IN FOUR SEPARATE MEMORANDA THAT THE COMMISSION CALL McKEOWN AS A WITNESS. THE COMMISSION DID NOT CALL McKEOWN AND DID NOT ASK RUBY ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MATTER.

1 Chairman Madden. Was Ruby alive at the time of the Commis-
2 sion hearing?

3 Mr. Downing. Yes, he was. He was supposedly dying of
4 cancer. But he was alive.

5 Chairman Madden. Didn't he die in jail?

6 Mr. Downing. Yes, he did.

7 Chairman Madden. How long was he in jail?

8 Mr. Downing. About a year, I'm informed.

9 Chairman Madden. Go ahead.

10 Mr. Downing.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

POSSIBLE OSWALD LINK TO CIA

BEFORE OSWALD WENT TO MEXICO IN SEPTEMBER OF 1963, HE HAD TO GET AN ENTRY PERMIT FROM THE MEXICAN CONSULATE IN NEW ORLEANS. AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THE FBI INVESTIGATED EVERYONE WHO HAD GOTTEN PERMITS IN NEW ORLEANS ON THE SAME DAY AS OSWALD. TO THEIR HORROR, THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE MAN IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING OSWALD WAS ONE WILLIAM GEORGE GAUDET, A MAN WHO HAD WORKED FOR THE CIA SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1947. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE CIA, THE FBI, AND THE WARREN COMMISSION, IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO CALL GAUDET AS A WITNESS, NOR EVEN TO LET HIS IDENTITY BE KNOWN UNTIL THE YEAR 2039. HOWEVER, RECENTLY, AND APPARENTLY BY ACCIDENT, GAUDET'S NAME WAS MADE PUBLIC, AND HE HAS AFFIRMED THE STORY OF THE ENTRY PERMIT AND THE COVER-UP.

THIS COVER-UP BY ITSELF IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT IT BECOMES MORE SINISTER WHEN ONE REALIZES THAT CIA-MAN GAUDET NOT ONLY

POSSIBLE OSWALD LINK TO CIA - 2

STOOD IN LINE AHEAD OF OSWALD, HE ALSO HAD KNOWLEDGE OF RUBY'S
ACTIVITIES. IN FACT, GAUDET TOLD THE FBI ON NOVEMBER 27, 1963 --
FOUR DAYS AFTER THE MURDER -- OF RUBY'S ACTIVITIES IN NEW ORLEANS.

YET TO THIS DAY, GAUDET HAS NEVER BEEN SUBFOENAED, PUT
UNDER OATH AND QUESTIONED PUBLICLY ABOUT THE LINKS BETWEEN HIMSELF,
OSWALD, AND RUBY . . . AND THE CIA.

THE WARREN COMMISSION'S SECRET MEETINGS

TWO DOCUMENTS RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED, THE JANUARY 22, 1964, AND THE JANUARY 27, 1964, TRANSCRIPTS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, PROVIDE INTERESTING READING.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION DECIDED TO DESTROY THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW WHAT THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED. THE MINUTES SURVIVED AND THEY REVEAL THAT THE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION, J. LEE RANKIN, REPORTED THAT THE TWO HIGHEST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN TEXAS, WAGGONER CARR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS, AND HENRY WADE, THE DALLAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BOTH HAD PROOF THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE FBI. RANKIN SUGGESTED THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THE FBI RECORDS WOULD REVEAL THAT OSWALD WORKED FOR THE FBI BUT HE ADDED THAT HOOVER WOULD PROBABLY DENY THAT OSWALD WAS THE AGENT REFERRED TO IN THE FBI FILES. ALLAN DULLES ASSURED CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN

COMMISSION'S SECRET MEETINGS ---

THAT HOOVER WOULD NOT TELL THE COMMISSION THE TRUTH, EVEN UNDER OATH, IF OSWALD DID WORK FOR THE FBI. DULLES SAID THAT A GOOD AGENT WOULD LIE UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE COMMISSION AGREED TO CALL THE FIVE RELEVANT WITNESSES ON THE QUESTIONING OF OSWALD'S EMPLOYMENT BY THE FBI AND TO SUBPEONA OSWALD'S FBI FILE AS WELL. BY THE END OF THE SECOND MEETING, THE COMMISSION DECIDED NOT TO CALL THE FIVE RELEVANT WITNESSES AND NOT TO SUBPEONA THE RECORDS OF THE FBI. INSTEAD, THE WARREN COMMISSION RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON THE TESTIMONY OF MR. HOOVER REGARDING OSWALD'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE FBI.

YET FOR MANY AMERICANS THIS QUESTION REMAINS AN OPEN ONE. A QUESTION WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED IF WE ARE TO KNOW HOW AND WHY JOHN KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

1 Mr. Anderson. Has anyone ever seen the FBI
2 file on Oswald?

3 Mr. Downing. No, sir.

4 Mr. Anderson. But there is uncontrovertible proof
5 that there is such a file?

6 Mr. Downing. I cannot say that, Mr. Anderson.
7 We will not know until we have the right to subpoena that
8 file.

9 There are so many interesting facts.

10 I better go on. If you want to find out more about
11 the secret meeting -- they thought they destroyed these
12 minutes, but somebody inadvertently kept the stenographic
13 notes in an envelope, and suddenly they appeared in the
14 documents recently revealed.

15 Chairman Madden. How long more will your statement
16 take?

17 Mr. Downing. Maybe ten minutes.

18 Chairman Madden. Go ahead.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TAPED CONVERSATION OF "OSWALD" IN MEXICO CITY

WHEN OSWALD VISITED MEXICO CITY IN SEPTEMBER, 1963,
SOMEONE MADE SEVERAL VISITS AND PHONE CALLS TO THE SOVIET
AND CUBAN EMBASSIES USING THE OSWALD IDENTITY.

THAT THERE IS SOME DOUBT THAT THE PERSON VISITING
AND PHONING THE EMBASSIES WAS IN FACT LEE HARVEY OSWALD IS
EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT MANY PHOTOGRAPHS OF "OSWALD" WERE TAKEN
BY CIA CAMERAS OUTSIDE BOTH EMBASSIES. EACH AND EVERY PHOTO-
GRAPH WHICH HAS BEEN PRIED LOOSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT -- AND
THEY ARE STILL WITHHOLDING SOME -- ARE OF A MAN WHO IS ABOUT
6'2", 175 POUNDS, 35 YEARS OLD, AND BURLY. "OUR" OSWALD WAS
5'9", 135 POUNDS, 24 YEARS OLD AND SLIM. THE PICTURES ARE
OBVIOUSLY NOT OF OSWALD, THOUGH SO IDENTIFIED BY THE CIA.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CIA -- THROUGH SOME UNKNOWN
MEANS -- TAPPED AND TAPED THE TELEPHONE CALLS OF "OSWALD"

TAPED CONVERSATION ----

TO THE SOVIET AND/OR CUBAN EMBASSIES. THESE RECORDED CONVERSATIONS WERE WITHHELD FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION. HAD THEY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE, OR IF THEY WERE MADE AVAILABLE TODAY, VOICE PRINTS OF THEM COULD BE MADE AND COMPARED WITH VOICE PRINTS OF KNOWN CONVERSATIONS OF LEE OSWALD. THEN WE WOULD KNOW FOR SURE IF THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE USING OSWALD'S IDENTITY IN MEXICO CITY. AND, IF THERE ARE TWO OSWALDS FOR SURE, WE CAN WAGER GREAT ODDS THAT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY INVOLVED IN THE DEATH OF OUR PRESIDENT.

SECRET WIRETAPS

AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLACED A NUMBER OF WIRETAPS BUT WITHHELD MOST OF THE "FRUITS" OF THESE TAPS FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION.

WE ARE CERTAIN AS TO ONE CRUCIAL TAP BECAUSE OF AN FBI REPORT DECLASSIFIED ONLY WEEKS AGO. THIS TAP WAS EITHER ON THE HOME PHONE OF THE PAINE RESIDENCE OR THE BUSINESS PHONE OF MICHAEL PAINE. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE PAINES WERE THE OSWALD'S CLOSEST FRIENDS IN DALLAS; IN FACT, MARINA OSWALD WAS LIVING AT THE PAINE RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION. OSWALD OSTENSIBLY STORED HIS RIFLE IN THE PAINE'S GARAGE.

ON THE DAY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THE FBI OVERHEARD RUTH AND MICHAEL PAINE TELLING EACH OTHER OVER THE TELEPHONE THAT, ALTHOUGH OSWALD DID THE SHOOTING, "WE KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE." APPARENTLY THE TAPES FROM THE CONVERSATION WERE WITHHELD,

BECAUSE WHEN THE PAINES WERE QUESTIONED AT A LATER DATE, THEY DENIED THE FACT THAT THE CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE. THE FBI DROPPED THE SUBJECT WITHOUT EVER FACING THEM WITH A TAPE OR AN FBI AGENT WHO HAD MONITORED THE CONVERSATION.

IF THE OSWALDS' BEST FRIENDS, THE PAINES, KNOW "WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE," ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW?

ALLAN DULLES AND ASSASSINATIONS

A LEADING MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS ALLAN DULLES. MR. DULLES HAD BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE CIA FROM 1953 UNTIL AFTER THE BAY OF PIGS IN 1961. DURING THIS TIME, DULLES, AS THE HEAD OF THE CIA, MUST HAVE BEEN PRIVY TO THE FACT THAT THE CIA HAD BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN MANY ATTEMPTS TO MURDER FIDEL CASTRO IN THE YEARS 1959-1961.

THE GRIMY DETAILS OF THE CIA EXCESSES -- ESPECIALLY THE USE MADE BY THE CIA OF THE MAFIA IN ITS MURDER PLOTS -- HAVE BEEN RECENTLY DOCUMENTED BY THE CHURCH COMMITTEE.

YET, DESPITE THE WARREN COMMISSION'S GREAT INTEREST IN OSWALD'S MANY LINKS TO CUBA AND TO BOTH PRO-FIDEL AND ANTI-FIDEL FACTIONS, ALLAN DULLES NEVER SAID ONE WORD TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ABOUT THE ATTEMPTS ON THE LIFE OF CASTRO. HAD ALLAN DULLES BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING, THE WHOLE

ALLAN DULLES ---

DIRECTION OF THE WARREN INVESTIGATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN
RADICALLY DIFFERENT AND ITS CONCLUSIONS RADICALLY ALTERED.

WHEN WE HAVE A NEW INVESTIGATION OF THE DALLAS MURDER --
AND WE WILL HAVE ONE, WHETHER IT IS THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR, OR
TEN YEARS HENCE -- THE INVESTIGATORS CAN NOW REALISTICALLY
WEIGH THE EVIDENCE WITHHELD FROM EARL WARREN BY ALLAN DULLES
TO SEE IF JOHN KENNEDY'S DEATH WAS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
CAUSED BY HIS ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPTS ON THE LIFE OF FIDEL
CASTRO.

1 Mr. Murphy. What year did Allen Dulles retire as head of
2 the CIA?

3 Mr. Downing. 1961, I am informed, Mr. Murphy.

4 A RIFLE WAS DISCOVERED ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE BOOK
5 DEPOSITORY BUILDING AT 1:22 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963. THE
6 DALLAS AUTHORITIES TOLD THE PRESS LATER THAT DAY THAT THE
7 WEAPON WAS A 7.65 GERMAN MAUSER. DALLAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY WADSWORTH
8 REPEATED THIS INFORMATION AT A FORMAL TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE
9 AND IT WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED. DEPUTY CONSTABLE SEYMOR WEITZMAN
10 ON NOVEMBER 23, 1963, IN A NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT, DESCRIBED THE
11 RIFLE HE AND DEPUTY SHERIFF BOONE FOUND AS "A 7.65 MAUSER,
12 BOLT ACTION EQUIPPED WITH A 4/18 SCOPE, A THICK LEATHER
13 BROWNISH BLACK SLING ON IT." IN A FILMED INTERVIEW IN APRIL
14 1974, ROGER CRAIG, A DEPUTY SHERIFF ALSO PRESENT WHEN THE RIFLE
15 WAS FOUND STATED:

22 "I WAS STANDING NEXT TO WEITZMAN, HE WAS STANDING
23 NEXT TO FRITZ, AND WE WEREN'T ANY MORE THAN SIX OR
24 EIGHT INCHES FROM THE RIFLE AND STAMPED RIGHT ON THE
25

BARREL OF THE RIFLE WAS 7.65 MAUSER. AND THAT'S
WHEN WEITZMAN SAID, IT IS A MAUSER, AND POINTED
TO THE 7.65 MAUSER STAMP ON THE BARREL."

THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE RIFLE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE
WARREN COMMISSION'S CASE AGAINST OSWALD. ALTHOUGH THE FBI
REPORTED THAT OSWALD OWNED A RIFLE IT WAS NOT SIMILAR TO THE
ONE REPORTEDLY FOUND ON THE BOOK DEPOSITORY SIXTH FLOOR.
ACCORDING TO THE FBI, THE RIFLE OSWALD HAD PURCHASED WAS A
MANNLICHER/CARCANO, 6.5 ITALIAN CARBINE. THIS RIFLE WHICH
THE WARREN COMMISSION IDENTIFIED AS THE MURDER WEAPON, IS
AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. ANY
INDIVIDUAL, REGARDLESS OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN FIREARMS, CAN
CLEARLY SEE IT IS AN ITALIAN RIFLE BECAUSE STAMPED CLEARLY ON
THE RIFLE ARE THE WORDS, "MADE ITALY" AND "CAL. 6.5." IT IS
UNLIKELY THAT TWO POLICE OFFICERS UPON CLOSE INSPECTION WOULD
HAVE MADE SUCH A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION.

RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED CIA DOCUMENTS ADD FURTHER

EVIDENCE THAT "OSWALD'S" RIFLE WAS NOT THE RIFLE FOUND IN THE BOOK DEPOSITORY. A CIA REPORT, DATED NOVEMBER 25, 1963, STATES "ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963 LEE HARVEY OSWALD SHOT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WHILE THE PRESIDENT WAS RIDING IN AN OPEN AUTOMOBILE ON A DALLAS TEXAS STREET. THE RIFLE USED WAS A MAUSER ..."

A SECOND CIA REPORT DATED FIVE DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION STATES:

23 NOVEMBER 1963

INFORMATION ON THE WEAPON

PRESUMABLY USED IN THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

1. AS REGARDS ARTICLES APPEARING RECENTLY IN THE ITALIAN AND FOREIGN PRESS CONCERNING THE PRESUMED USE OF AN ITALIAN-MADE RIFLE IN THE SLAYING OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE MADE.

2. THE WEAPON WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THIS CRIMINAL ATTACK IS A MODEL 91 RIFLE, 7.35 CALIBER, 1938 MODIFICATION.

3. THE DESCRIPTION OF A "MANNLICHER CARCANO" RIFLE IN THE ITALIAN AND FOREIGN PRESS IS IN ERROR.

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE INITIAL IDENTIFICATION OF THE RIFLE AS A 7.65 MAUSER CLEARLY WAS NOT, AS THE COMMISSION MAINTAINED, BECAUSE DEPUTY CONSTIBLE WEITZMAN "THOUGHT IT LOOKED LIKE A MAUSER." SINCE THE COMMISSION'S CASE AGAINST OSWALD AS THE LONE ASSASSIN IS BUILT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON HIS OWNERSHIP OF THE 6.5 MANNLICHER/CARCANO, THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE MURDER WEAPON AS 7.65 MAUSER TENDS TO DISCREDIT THE ENTIRE CASE.

OSWALD/SOVIET EMBASSY

THE REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION INCLUDES REFERENCE TO A TRIP BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD TO MEXICO CITY IN LATE SEPTEMBER OF 1963, WHERE ON SEPTEMBER 28 HE VISITED BOTH THE CUBAN AND THE SOVIET EMBASSIES. THE REPORT MENTIONS THAT WHILE HE WAS IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY HE SPOKE WITH THE SOVIET CONSUL KOSTIKOV, WHO ALSO SERVED AS A KGB AGENT. OSWALD REFERRED TO HIM AS "COMRAD KOSTIN." THERE IS NO FURTHER REFERENCE IN THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT AS TO THE IDENTITY OF KOSTIKOV. WE LEARNED THIS IN THE RECENT RELEASE OF SOME 1500 CIA DOCUMENTS. I QUOTE FROM ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS:

"NOTE: VALERIY VLADIMIROVICH KOSTIKOV, WHO HAS FUNCTIONED OVERTLY AS A CONSUL IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY SINCE SEPTEMBER 1961, IS ALSO KNOWN TO BE A STAFF OFFICER OF THE KGB. HE IS CONNECTED WITH THE THIRTEENTH, OR LIQUID AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE ASSASSINATION AND SABOTAGE."

UPON READING THIS, MY SUSPICIONS WERE VERY DEFINITELY
AROUSSED. HERE WE HAVE THE MAN WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE
ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY VISITING A SOVIET OFFICIAL WHOSE
RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCORDING TO THE CIA, INCLUDE ASSASSINATION.
I FIND THE WHOLE THING HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS. I FIND IT INCREDIBLE.
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OSWALD'S KGB CONTACT. I WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW WHY THIS IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE COMMISSION REPORT.

THE HOSTY LETTER
THE HOSTY LETTER

JUST AS THE FBI DESTROYED EVIDENCE IN THE WATERGATE CASE, EQUALLY DID IT DO SO IN THE DALLAS CASE.

IN ONE CRUCIAL INSTANCE WE KNOW THAT A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, OSWALD HAND-DELIVERED TO THE FBI OFFICE IN DALLAS A THREATENING LETTER ADDRESSED TO FBI AGENT JAMES HOSTY. TWO HOURS AFTER RUBY SHOT OSWALD, HOSTY TORE UP THE NOTE AND A MEMORANDUM ABOUT IT AND FLUSHED THEM DOWN A TOILET IN THE FBI OFFICE.

HOW CAN WE BE SO SURE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS INCIDENT? BECAUSE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE, CHAIRED BY THE HONORABLE DON EDWARDS, HELD A FULL-FLEDGED HEARING UNDER OATH ON THIS SUBJECT NOT MORE THAN A FEW MONTHS AGO. SUCH FACTS AS I HAVE STATED ARE PERFECTLY CLEAR.

WHAT IS NOT CLEAR IS (1) THE NATURE OF THE THREATS IN THE LETTER; (2) DID J. EDGAR HOOVER KNOW OF THE LETTER; (3) WHO ORDERED THE LETTER DESTROYED; AND (4) WHY WAS IT SO CRUCIAL TO HIDE THE WHOLE INCIDENT FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION?

THE HOSTY LETTER - 2

AT THE EDWARDS HEARING, THE TESTIMONY OF VARIOUS FBI WITNESSES WAS RADICALLY CONTRADICTORY. AS THEY WERE UNDER OATH, AT LEAST SOME OF THE WITNESSES WERE PERJURING THEMSELVES, TWELVE YEARS AFTER THE FACT.

THE AIM OF THE FBI APPEARED OBVIOUS FROM HOSTY'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN EDWARDS. HE SAID HE DID NOT TELL THE COMMISSION ABOUT THE OSWALD LETTER BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ASKED. HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER THE INFORMATION BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO VOLUNTEER ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE OF HELP TO THE COMMISSION.

I AM SURE THAT EACH OF US REMEMBERS THE MANNER IN WHICH WE HEARD OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. WE MAY FORGET MANY OF THE DETAILS OF OUR LIVES, BUT EACH ONE OF US WILL CARRY TO THE GRAVE THE MEMORY OF WHERE WE WERE, WHAT WE WERE DOING, HOW WE HEARD ABOUT IT, AND OUR OWN PERSONAL REACTION. THIS IS TRUE NOT ONLY OF US, BUT OF EVERY AMERICAN WHOSE MEMORY WAS ALIVE THAT DAY AND OF UNTOLD MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

IT IS ALSO TRUE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT I DO NOT WANT TO GO HOME AND FACE MY PEOPLE UNLESS I CAN ASSURE THEM THAT I HAVE DONE MY UTMOST TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THEIR PRESIDENT THAT DAY. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL THEM THAT NO ONE HAS STOOD IN THEIR WAY OF LEARNING THE TRUTH. I WANT TO HELP RESTORE IN THEM THE CREDIBILITY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. THAT THEY NEED.

(CONCLUSION - 2)

I WANT TO LEAVE THIS AS MY LEGACY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
95TH CONGRESS, THE PLEASURE OF WHOSE COMPANY I HAVE CHOSEN,
WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, TO DENY MYSELF.

ALL I ASK IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND YOUR HELP. LET
ME TAKE IT TO THE FLOOR.

#

1 Thank you very much, gentlemen. You have been awful patient
2 and I appreciate it.

3 Chairman Madden. I want to commend the witness for that
4 outstanding resume of all the details and statements
5 contained in his statement.

6 What is the pleasure of the committee? Shall we, when
7 more Members are here, come back at 2:00 o'clock?

8 Let's adjourn until 2:00 o'clock.

9 (Whereupon, at 12:25 o'clock p.m., the committee
10 was recessed to reconvene at 2:00 o'clock p.m., the same day.)
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Chairman Madden. The committee will come to order, please.

We continue with House Resolution 204, and House Resolution 432. I think we completed the questioning.

Mr. Young of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I apologize -- I was called away, and I didn't hear Tom's testimony.

Tom, if you will bear with me -- at one time when you spoke to me about this, you seemed to be much impressed with a moving picture you had seen about that. Did you address yourself to that?

Mr. Downing. I did not address myself to that in my text, John.

The Zapruda film is an impact-making instrument, which I really wanted to show, but I understand the rules don't allow that. The Chairman has seen it. I don't know whether you have seen it or not.

Mr. Young of Texas. No, I have not.

Mr. Downing. The film shows in my judgment the President being hit in the back and he goes forward, and then all of a sudden something hits him here, and he goes backward, indicating to my judgment that he was being fired on from two different directions at the same time. And that is the dramatic effect of the Zapruda film. Now, there are many technical explanations. One is it was a neuro-muscular

1 reaction on the part of the President. Another was he had
2 a back brace on which would cause that-- or what the
3 medical people call a jet implosion. But to the layman, if
4 you are hit in the back, you go forward, and if you are
5 hit in the front you go backwards. And that is what the
6 film shows.

7 Mr. Young of Texas. Tom -- I am not a witness, and
8 I don't know a great deal more about it than I can tell you.
9 Congressman Gonzalez and I were in the same car. We were in
10 Car 4, as I remember, which was about seven cars in back of
11 the President.

12 Mr. Gonzalez. About six.

13 Mr. Young of Texas. We were just making that turn by
14 that school building, and I know that those three shots
15 came from right up over my head. Now, whether they were fired
16 from one window, or how many people fired them, or anything
17 like that, I have no idea. But I'm very certain that those
18 three shots came from right up above me.

19 Henry was in the car. He started to jump out, and I had
20 to grab him by the coat to pull him back. But he didn't
21 jump out to run. He wanted to apprehend who was doing the
22 shooting.

23 Mr. Downing. Did he run forward or backwards?

24 Mr. Gonzalez. I was the one who said, "Those were shots."
25 And the driver said, well, he thought maybe it was the

1 motorcycle. And I said, "No, that was firing." And I
2 said, "I'm going to go out and see," because we were at a stand
3 still. John said, "You can't go out now." Then moments
4 or seconds later, the motorcycle officer came up, and motioned
5 us onward, and everybody sped off.

6 Mr. Young of Texas. To the hospital.

7 Mr. Gonzalez. Well, it ended up in the hospital. We
8 first went over to the Mart. We approached the Mart, and
9 when we were about the round the block to go to the Mart,
10 the policeman there said, "No, no," he waved us down, and
11 said, "Parkland Hospital."

12 Mr. Young of Texas. I remember when Henry was getting
13 out, the people were falling all over the ground, mothers were
14 throwing their children down.

15 Mr. Gonzalez. This was one of the perplexing things
16 that I wondered about, because people that were -- I was
17 on the left side -- I saw particularly a couple that obviously
18 had seen or were in great fear, and the man got the woman,
19 threw her down on the ground. But if that were the case, then
20 they would have been fleeing into the line of fire instead
21 of away from the line of fire. And it always bothered me that
22 that had happened. But it is just one of those questions.

23 Mr. Young of Texas. Thank you.

24 Chairman Madden. Mr. Quillen.

25 Mr. Quillen. I want to apologize for not hearing all

1 of your statement. I understand both of you did a great
2 job.

3 Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you.

4 Mr. Downing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 It may interest the committee, this is the stack of
6 documents which have been released within the past several
7 months by the governmental agencies involved. Most of them
8 are top secret. And it is estimated that this much remains
9 in the Archives eventually to be released, or to be released
10 in 2039. This is just CIA, I am informed.

11 Chairman Madden. Mr. Sisk.

12 Mr. Sisk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 I don't think I want to take too much time. I have talked
14 to both of you gentlemen at one time or another. I know, Tom,
15 particularly I talked to you at some considerable length.
16 I think I expressed my feelings at that time. I said that
17 if anyone could justify to me, or give me any really
18 qualified reason for going back to this again, I would be willing
19 to go along. But I don't know what we have got to gain, even
20 if we proved that Oswald did not even shoot him. I still
21 don't know what difference that is going to make now
22 at this stage.

23 Mr. Downing. The basic thing to be gotten out of that
24 is to get the truth. I think the American public is entitled
25 to it. Certainly history is entitled to it. And perhaps

1 from the results of this investigation it would lead to
2 ways that we can prevent or minimize the same thing
3 happening to a future President.

4 Mr. Sisk. Tom, you recall -- I don't think there
5 is any point in us going into it too far -- you recall the
6 many stories and the many books that have been written.
7 In fact, not very long ago, quite recently, there was a
8 new piece of work came out, discussing the Secretary of
9 War's involvement or belief of involvement in the death
10 of Lincoln, for example. And here we are way over a hundred
11 years past that. And still there are those who say that that
12 was a conspiracy. And it may have been a conspiracy. But,
13 you know, I guess I just -- I don't think it makes one
14 particle of difference whether John Wilkes Booth alone did
15 it, or whether he was involved in a conspiracy so far as anything
16 we can do about it now, or any effect on our future.

17 And again, Lord knows, I agree -- we say, you know,
18 know the truth and the truth will make you free, and that
19 sort of thing. But we have gone through this.

20 You see, we had some of the most distinguished Americans
21 in this country on that Warren Commission. I had great
22 faith in Earl Warren. And I still do. I didn't necessarily
23 agree with all the decisions of the Warren Court. I
24 recognize the controversies there. But Earl Warren was a
25 gentleman, and in my book was just that. And I just cannot

1 conceive, having known him as long as I did, over a period
2 of years, that he would have been any party to this. And then
3 I think of people like Hale Boggs, who was on that Commission,
4 and Gerry Ford, our present President of the United States,
5 who was on that Commission, and others. I think they did the
6 best job they could under the circumstances, with the knowledge
7 they had in hand. And even today, or in the year 2039,
8 if you want to go that far, whenever, that there might be
9 more stuff out of the CIA or FBI, what difference does
10 it really make?

11 Mr. Downing. Let me get one thing straight. Henry and
12 I have the utmost respect for the members who composed the
13 Warren Commission. No question about it. They were dedicated
14 Americans trying to do the best job possible.

15 Now, two things could occur: Either the Warren Commission
16 was not given some of these facts, the documented facts
17 that I mentioned this morning, or they were given them and
18 decided that it was in the best interests of the nation at that
19 time that these facts not be disclosed, and they went along
20 with the single-bullet theory.

21 Now, 12 years have passed. The American people can
22 take the truth. And I think they deserve the truth.

23 Mr. Young of Texas. Excuse me. What is the single-bullet
24 theory?

25 Mr. Downing. That one bullet traversed the President, went

1 through his body, made a right angle turn, and went
2 into Governor Connally, and emerged and was later found
3 on a stretcher in Parkland Hospital.

4 Now, this is impossible. But it is the only way
5 you can really link Oswald and the death of President
6 Kennedy.

7 Now, in answer to your question, Bernie -- President
8 Ford himself has said that recent revelations might
9 indicate that a partial investigation should be conducted.

10 ~~Mr. Sikes.~~ Yes. But, Tom, these so-called recent
11 ~~MR. SISK~~ revelations again seem to me to be more figments of chance or
12 suspicion.

13 One question I did want to discuss with you briefly
14 was the situation with relation to Bob Kennedy, the Senator,
15 in California. And you know, this business with Sirhan,
16 and that has been gone back over just recently. We have
17 just gone through another complete restudy and review by
18 the Los Angeles County Police, and the Attorney General,
19 and so on, and they say in spite of all the suspicions and
20 charges and counter-charges -- I think you will agree --
21 they have said there is nothing to it; that basically the facts
22 were the facts as originally brought out, and they dropped it.

23 Now, I just --

24 Mr. Clauson. If the gentleman will yield at that
25 point just a moment -- because at the time he made that

71
1 statement, he was running for office out there -- the
2 same Attorney General's position -- and he had a political
3 reason for getting some headlines, and I think that helped
4 him to get it.

5 Mr. Downing. If all you say is true, the American
6 public is asking for it. Were you here --

7 Mr. Sisk. Yes, I heard all your testimony.

8 Mr. Downing. Ninety-three percent polled by the
9 Detroit Press.

10 Mr. Sisk. I think in the last two or three years-- well,
11 since the matter has been discussed -- I don't think I received
12 six letters in the last five years from anybody interested
13 in opening this thing at all. And I have had some that said,
14 "For gosh sakes, let's go ahead and try to take care of the
15 future and see if we can restore confidence of the American
16 people in their Government."

17 In other words, let the dead bury the dead and let the
18 past be past. Maybe that sounds cold-blooded. But I am increas-
19 ingly concerned, Tom -- I think I explained this to you
20 before-- about some kind of a feeling that we in America,
21 which I don't share, but apparently a lot of Americans do--
22 that we should stay in sack cloth and ashes for I guess the
23 next ten years over some of the mistakes we may have made,
24 and that we should be terribly ashamed in the eyes
25 of the world. You know, I just don't feel that way.

1 I don't think America has anything to be ashamed of.

2 I am tired of any implications that our country hasn't
3 done the best it could.

4 We made mistakes. We as officials of government have
5 made mistakes. Our forefathers made mistakes. Those who
6 succeed us are going to make mistakes. But for gosh sakes --
7 I have great pride, I am proud of America -- in spite of her
8 mistakes, it is still the greatest country in the world.
9 I just think we ought to put some of this stuff behind us,
10 and not just keep on some idea that we have to continue to
11 repent and repent day in and day out.

12 I don't see anything to repent of.

13 Mr. Downing. I'm proud of my country, too. But I realize
14 we make mistakes. Weren't you shocked when you learned that
15 we sponsored as a nation teams that went around the world
16 to eradicate other leaders?

17 Mr. Sisk. Certainly I was concerned about it. Maybe
18 I wasn't as surprised as maybe some people, because recognizing
19 it -- I think there are certain facts in connection with
20 espionage and counter-espionage, and we live in a dangerous
21 world. So I guess I wasn't shocked to the extent some people
22 were. But there again, we have gone through that. We have
23 repented, so to speak, publicly, and we have publicly gone
24 before the country and the world in sack cloth and ashes. I
25 say put it behind us and let's go ahead, Tom.

1 Let me say I respect you. I know you are just as
2 patriotic as I am. I know you love America as much as I do.
3 I guess I just kind of get up tight over the continued
4 pressure to spend time on this kind of thing, when I don't
5 see one earthly good it would do for our country, for
6 the people, for the world. And I just think there are
7 so many challenges out in front in the future, we ought
8 to be about our business of the future and not going back
9 and crying over the past.

10 Again, as I said --

11 Mr. Downing. I understand the gentleman's feelings.

12 Mr. Sisk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Chairman Madden. Mr. Clawson.

14 Mr. Clawson. No questions.

15 Chairman Madden. Mr. Matsunaga.

16 Mr. Matsunaga. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Well, I feel somewhat like Mr. Sisk. On the other
18 hand, if we find that we have made mistakes in the past,
19 and we have, and there is a chance to rectify our error, to
20 do some good, just as in the case of the President recently
21 issuing an Executive Order repealing Executive Order 9066,
22 which placed 110,000 innocent Americans of Japanese ancestry
23 behind barbed wire fences in World War II -- well,
24 it shows the greatness of this country, that we can admit
25 our mistakes and rectify those mistakes.

1 It is a great thing. And here is another instance where there
2 might have been a mistake made. But again, as the gentleman
3 from California said -- I cannot understand what we would
4 gain by it, except, as you say, maybe a revelation of the
5 truth. And yet that, to me, from what I have seen, what I
6 have read, is pure speculation. If there is something solid
7 on which we can stand and there is going to be some good
8 brought to this country, and to the American people -- I
9 would say let's go. But I fail to see that. This I think is
10 what troubles most of us here.

11 Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Chairman, may I comment?

12 Mr. Matsunaga. That is a question.

13 Mr. Gonzalez. We are at a slight disadvantage,
14 because both in the case of Mr. Sisk and Mr. Matsunaga,
15 they both missed our presentation almost in its entirety.

16 Mr. Sisk. I was here throughout. I heard every bit
17 of your statement.

18 Mr. Gonzalez. Okay. I take it back. But in the case
19 of Mr. Matsunaga.

20 Now, as far as --

21 Chairman Madden. In explanation to your statement there,
22 I have been having great difficulty in keeping a full
23 quorum, like every other committee. You cannot have all
24 members at times present. And it is unfortunate.

25 Mr. Gonzalez. No, I am not condemning that. I know that.

1 Mr. Matsunaga. If the gentleman will yield -- you
2 see, this meeting this morning was not regularly
3 scheduled, and I had a dental appointment.

4 Chairman Madden. That is an honorable excuse.

5 Mr. Gonzalez. I certainly recognize that. And we
6 all have missed -- in fact, in order to be here, I missed at
7 least two more appointments.

8 But it is not expiation that we are seeking. No way
9 you can have national expiation, if such is even desirable.
10 What we are seeking is a clarification and an establishment
11 and a correction of a dangerous trend that has completely
12 subverted the established form of our democratic processes.
13 This is what is at the heart of the matter. It is not a question
14 of expiation. It is a question of saving our democracy.
15 Anybody who says that there is no concern or should be no concern
16 about the assassination of a political leader, and a series
17 of political assassinations in the course of a decade, is
18 certainly saying he is not concerned with the destiny of the
19 nation, though that I am sure is not your feeling, but it is
20 tantamount to it.

21 With respect to Mr. Matsunaga, let me comment that here--
22 I don't know what it would take -- I don't think either Tom
23 or myself have any kind of a rod to strike the rock and
24 have water flow and produce a miracle for you. This is why
25 we are importuning the committee to give us a chance to go

1 to the Floor and see if we can sell the majority of the
2 Members of the House to establish a committee that would
3 have the resources and the means to carry out this type of
4 research and review.

5 Mr. Downing. I think Mr. Gonzalez put it well. I
6 don't even want to serve on the committee. I am just so
7 dedicated that the truth ought to be known by the American
8 people and the citizens of the world that I have gone to this
9 effort to appear before you.

10 Mr. Quillen. Mr. Chairman --

11 Chairman Madden. Wait a moment. Were you through?

12 Mr. Matsunaga. I am finished.

13 Chairman Madden. Mr. Quillen.

14 Mr. Quillen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Tom, both you and the gentleman from Texas mentioned
16 the truth. If a special committee were created, and you
17 came up with a different conclusion, what would the American
18 people believe as being the truth in President Kennedy's
19 assassination? Would they believe the Warren Report, would
20 they believe your report? Or then would someone else come
21 up And say, "Neither are the truth -- for the benefit of our
22 country we must have another investigation." How can you prove
23 anything, particularly after the man being charged was dead.
24 I wasn't in the car. I know two who are here today were
25 in cars in the motorcade. I have great reservations about that.

Also Martin Luther King -- if we were to revive an investigation in such a hearing, I'm afraid it would bring about more discontent in the nation than it would clarification, because the courts won't even allow the charged assassin a new trial, won't even allow a new trial. They say he is guilty. He says he is not. I don't know.

Mr. Downing. To answer your question, I am inclined to believe that the public would believe the results of whatever came out of this Commission.

You see, we have been getting the leaks, the revelations that have been coming out -- Oswald dealing with the KGB man who was in charge of assassinations and sabotage. And the fact that the FBI at one time said they did not know Mr. Ruby, and all of a sudden you produce a letter just a couple of months ago from J. Edgar Hoover, saying "Oh, no, we hired Ruby on at least eight or nine occasions as an informant -- he wasn't much good, but we knew him and hired him."

Look at all this stuff. It is supposed to be impounded until the year 2039. Why? Is there any reason for this if we have nothing to hide, nothing to fear?

And what else is left in the Archives? Another stack like this. What is that going to say? Give us an opportunity to look at that stack.

Mr. Matsunaga. Will the gentleman yield? Is there anything now which prevents you from revealing these documents to the public?

1 Mr. Downing. No, not these documents, because they
2 have been released. But the documents that are still withheld
3 we cannot obtain without a subpoena. We are trying to get
4 a Commission established to take a look at these documents,
5 and to subpoena some of the people who know what happened.
6 I would hope and pray that the result of this Commission
7 would be a confirmation of the Warren Report, because that
8 would settle everything.

9 Mr. Clausen. I think that would be wishful thinking.
10 I don't think it would settle it. You have too many sensational
11 writers with imaginations.

12 Mr. Sisk. One hundred and fifty years from now we will
13 still be talking about this, just like we have talked about
14 Lincoln, and Garfield, and all the rest of them. Jessie
15 James -- I had a man not very long ago swear to me that
16 Jessie James wasn't killed, that Mr. Ford didn't shoot him
17 or whatever the story is, and that he died in Oklahoma, and
18 told me where he died and all about it.

19 Well, I don't mean to be making light of this.
20 It is a concern of the country, because of the way it affects
21 our faith in democracy, justice and equity. But in fact
22 I just don't think there is any concrete information to
23 guarantee anything. I think it is just more speculation.
24 And again it gets down to a reasonable judgment of some
25 men who say we believe this is what happened, but we have

1 no way of proving it. That is what the Warren Commission,
2 I think, finally said.

3 Mr. Downing. Suppose we discover that federal agencies
4 stooped to withholding and cover-up. Don't you think
5 that the bearing of these facts would be a salutary effect?

6 Mr. Sisk. Tom, you know over the years you and I have served
7 together here, we found many agencies who tried to do cover-ups.
8 Maybe it wasn't as serious as we might consider this. But
9 we are all human. We have people down in these departments
10 from time to time, and they are not all just down in the
11 departments -- unfortunately we in Congress sometimes do not
12 look as good as maybe we should, we make mistakes. We have
13 done things. And I know I have in the course of my committee
14 work found cases where things were deliberately covered up,
15 to try to avoid a comparison.

16 But again we have lived over these things.

17 Chairman Madden. Mr. Anderson.

18 Mr. Anderson. Mr. Chairman, I just have one very brief
19 observation that I would like to make. I would like to
20 preface that by telling both you gentlemen who have
21 testified before us this morning and this afternoon that
22 one could certainly not listen to them without being impressed
23 with their sincerity, and with the fact that they have obviously
24 spent countless hours delving into this matter.

25 My thought is this: I have learned through conversations

1 that my staff had with the staff of the Senate Select Committee
2 on Intelligence, that that committee, as is well known, has
3 to some extent gone into the various theories surrounding
4 a possible conspiracy leading to the assassination of former
5 President Kennedy. And up to this time, they have not released
6 any report. And it is my understanding that in about
7 a month they do plan to make public a report of some kind that
8 presumably would touch on at least part of the matters raised
9 by our testimony. And I wonder, therefore, if it would not
10 be advisable for this committee to defer any final action
11 on your request and postpone the creation of a select committee
12 until we have at least had the time to get the benefit of such
13 wisdom as may repose in the report coming out of that Select
14 Senate Committee.

15 Chairman Madden. Will you yield?

16 I was talking to counsel and I did not get the first
17 part of your statement.

18 Mr. Anderson. Mr. Chairman, I just made the point that
19 the Senate Select Committee, the so-called Church
20 Committee, has to some extent gone into the various theories
21 that had been advanced about a possible conspiracy leading to
22 the assassination of President Kennedy: That report is not
23 out. It is scheduled to be released, I am told, in about
24 a month.

25 ~~Chairman Madden.~~ Did they hold hearings?

1 Mr. Anderson. They held hearings and took some testimony.
2 I am not sure about all the evidence. But it has been
3 within the last year. And my thought was it might be well
4 for this committee not to make a final decision on the
5 creation of a select House committee until we have the
6 benefit of whatever report may be issued by that committee.
7 They are supposed to report in about a month.

8 Chairman Madden. Thank you.

9 Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Anderson, may I comment on that?

10 In the first place, the Church Committee has been working
11 in a very specific area. Their whole thrust and the
12 limitation of the purpose of their committee is intelligence
13 agency activities.

14 I contemplated something a lot more extensive
15 in the sense that I feel keenly there is a Congressional
16 responsibility here -- not so much as to a "who-done-it"
17 type of approach, but to evaluate the national impact
18 on our federal government particularly, on the democratic
19 process, regardless of whether there was a conspiracy, no
20 conspiracy, et cetera.

21 Now, as I see it, there may or may not be
22 a Church Committee report. It may or may not impinge
23 on that. More likely it will have some revelatory impact.
24 But it nevertheless does not discharge the main responsibility
25 that I see for a Congressional body. I was hoping it would

1 be the House. And I was hoping it would be of broad
2 scope, not a narrow thing; not necessarily an appeal
3 from the Warren Commission finding, but broader in its scope.

4 After all, what we are asking for -- the Rules Committee
5 will not create the Select Committee. The Rules Committee
6 will give us the right to go to the House Floor to debate
7 further. And I think that if you were to consider granting
8 that kind of a rule, that by the time it reached the debate
9 stage on the House Floor, we would have some report from
10 the Church Committee, and be that farther advanced.

11 Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman.

12 Chairman Madden. Mr. Latta.

13 Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman, I intend to support this
14 resolution. I think there is a tremendous amount of interest
15 in it throughout the country, a lot of questions have been
16 raised throughout the years. And I remember very well
17 listening and watching the Cronkite-Johnson inquiry, where
18 even the former President raised some question about this
19 matter. Now, when President Johnson himself was not
20 convinced, I think that we ought to at least let this reso-
21 lution go to the Floor of the House. And I just don't think
22 that we, as the Rules Committee, since we are
23 now prone to take up other matters, like we did this
24 morning, about ready to take up another matter that has
25 already been decided a few weeks ago by the House -- I think

1 that we ought to send this down there, and let them decide
2 this issue, as to whether or not we have a select committee
3 to investigate this matter. And I think that there is such
4 a national interest in this matter, that we ought to let
5 it go down there. And I think that we, as a committee, might
6 be accused of some sort of a cover-up ourselves if we did not
7 permit the House itself to act on this very important
8 matter. So I intend to support the resolution.

9 Chairman Madden. Was there any testimony offered as
10 to what a committee of this nature, if it were created
11 and hearings held, how long would the hearings last, and
12 how much it would cost the taxpayers?

13 Mr. Downing. There was an estimate that the hearings
14 could be completed within a year, and that the cost would
15 not exceed \$500,000. But they are estimates, Mr. Chairman.

16 Mr. Quillen. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make
17 this observation. The House Administration Committee only
18 allowed \$150,000 for a full-scale investigation of the leaking
19 of secret documents by another select committee. And I
20 think that investigation should go full speed ahead.

21 But it would seem to me that if the FBI is
22 in somewhat of a bad reputé at this time, that if they would go
23 full-speed-ahead and make an investigation, it might be a
24 good idea for them to recoup the lost image they have made
25 over the years.

1 I think any limit or amount you might bring up is subject
2 to close scrutiny by the House Administration Committee,
3 as with the Ethics Committee.

4 Mr. Downing. I quite agree.

5 Mr. Clawson. Mr. Chairman -- the resolution provides
6 for completing the work during the present Congress, and
7 reporting results to the present Congress.

8 Mr. Downing. That would be impossible at the present
9 time.

10 Mr. Clawson. Should this Congress then bind a subsequent
11 Congress under this kind of an arrangement? Is that
12 possible?

13 Mr. Downing. No. The Commission would have to be
14 reconstituted in the next Congress. We could get started
15 now.

16 Mr. Clawson. That is all.

17 Chairman Madden. Mr. Murphy.

18 Mr. Murphy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Tom and Henry, I find it interesting that you say
20 there is such a great national cry for information on this.
21 I just had the pleasure, I think it was the pleasure, of
22 serving on the Select Committee on Intelligence in the House,
23 and we are still trying to get that report published. We
24 went over a great deal of what you gentlemen raised today.
25 Quite frankly, we had testimony from the FBI and the CIA

1 and other intelligence agencies regarding Oswald
2 and his connection with Mexico and Cuba. And although they
3 are interesting -- anytime you talk to a Russian in Mexico
4 City you are talking to a KGB agent, and anybody who thinks
5 they are not, they are kidding themselves. And most of our
6 people down there are agents too, as in any post in the
7 world. So that to me is not revealing.

8 I just don't think there is a national interest that
9 you two claim there is. The House voted overwhelmingly
10 to suppress the intelligence report. I still claim there is
11 nothing in there affecting the national interest. I just
12 think the pendulum is the other way -- "Let's get off the FBI and
13 the CIA."

14 And I think you ought to talk to Daniel Shorr -- I'm sure
15 he will bear me out -- that the pendulum has come full
16 cycle on this thing. And I kind of agree with Bernie -- I
17 think the people are saying to us, let's get on with
18 the future of this country, and quit worrying about what happened
19 in the past, what really is there to be gained from it all.

20 Mr. Downing. Nobody wants to hurt the FBI or the CIA--
21 certainly not the gentleman from Texas or me. But of
22 course the fact remains that over 125 of our colleagues have co-
23 sponsored either his resolution or mine.

24 Mr. Murphy. I think ours was unanimous. You know what
25 happened in the meantime.

1 Mr. Downing. I cited to you the polls taken by the various
2 media.

3 I have no objection to the proposal by Mr. Anderson.
4 I can only speak for myself. If you want to wait, get
5 a little more evidence, and be sure of yourselves, perhaps
6 that is the Solomon solution to it. It will come. I am convinced
7 of that. And if you would like a little more time -- go on
8 and let it pend until after the Church report.

9 Chairman Madden. Would you yield?

10 Now, we have two resolutions here. From the standpoint
11 of the committee, Congressman Gonzalez has a resolution
12 asking for the investigation of President Kennedy, Robert
13 Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and George Wallace. Yours is
14 confined to John F. Kennedy. Now, if the committee decided
15 to pass one of those resolutions out, what would you sponsor?

16 Mr. Downing. I have a compromise version, sir, which
17 Mr. Gonzalez and I can agree to.

18 "The study of circumstances surrounding the death
19 of John F. Kennedy, and of such other national figures
20 as the committee may deem necessary."

21 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Chairman, could I be recognized
22 for a motion?

23 Chairman Madden. Just a moment. I want to complete
24 this.

25 What is your answer?

1 Mr. Downing. We can agree on a compromise, Mr. Chairman.

2 Chairman Madden. What was your compromise?

3 Mr. Downing. The compromise would be to study
4 the circumstances surrounding the death of President Kennedy
5 and other national figures as the committee may deem necessary.

6 Chairman Madden. Well, that would be a mammoth undertaking.

7 Mr. Downing. No -- focus on --

8 Chairman Madden. Does that mean -- would you ask for an
9 open rule on that?

10 Mr. Gonzalez. Well, I feel this way, Mr. Chairman --
11 if you are through, Tom.

12 Mr. Downing. Yes.

13 Chairman Madden. I would like to find out. Would you
14 ask for an open rule on that?

15 Mr. Downing. I would think so, yes.

16 Chairman Madden. Would that include Jimmy Hoffa?

17 Mr. Downing. No.

18 Chairman Madden. Would it include Howard Hughes?

19 I read an article where he has disappeared.

20 Mr. Downing. Not unless the committee deemed it
21 necessary. And I find it hard to believe a committee would
22 deem that investigation necessary.

23 Chairman Madden. Well, it is mysterious. The papers
24 are printing about his disappearance. And the FBI and the
25 CIA and everybody seems to be falling down on the job.

1 Congress cannot take over that Department of the
2 government.

3 Mr. Downing. No, it wasn't intended to include figures
4 like that.

5 Chairman Madden. What is your motion?

6 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Chairman, I understand some of the people
7 have not questioned yet. I thought we were through
8 questioning. I have a motion once we are ready.

9 Mr. Long. Mr. Chairman, I am inclined to agree with
10 the conclusions of Mr. Sisk and Mr. Matsunaga and Mr.
11 Murphy. But for a little bit different reasons.

12 In my experience as a lawyer, I found that
13 as time passes witnesses' imaginations grew bigger and bigger
14 and bigger, and that as they read things, they become convinced
15 that what they read is the truth, and their imaginations
16 grow. I think the possibilities of getting at the truth of
17 this matter are much more remote now than they were 10-1/2
18 years ago.

19 This current issue of Play Boy Magazine, for example,
20 has got a question -- they are running a series, as maybe you
21 know, on assassinations.

22 The current issue has one on the assassination
23 of Huey Long which occurred 41 years ago, and they are still
24 raising questions about whether or not Huey Long was killed
25 by the dentist who supposedly killed him, or whether he was

1 assassinated by his bodyguards who were there at the time.

2 Questions have been rampant in Louisiana during all of this
3 entire period certainly of my lifetime. And I guess
4 more questions are being raised now about the truth as to who
5 killed Huey Long than were when e was killed 41 years ago, or
6 even ten years after that. And I think that all the publicity
7 that gets onto it, is added to it, tends to make it grow. And
8 I'm afraid that what will end up as a result of these
9 imaginations of people running wild, that get involved in
10 these, and of witnesses tending to think things really
11 happened only in their imaginations, that we would end up
12 raising more questions than we really answered by this type
13 of situation. And that the uneasiness that we find and the
14 cynicism that we find in the country today -- and I am
15 sure you all find it, being exposed and involved
16 in this -- and I applaud you for it, because I really believe
17 that if we had a chance to get at it, know we were at the truth
18 and could resolve the matter once and for all, I would be
19 of the mind to completely support what you are attempting
20 to do. But I'm afraid that as a result of the circumstances
21 that I outlined, that we would really end up just stirring the
22 fire bigger, and really not making any substantial contribution
23 to it, and adding to the cynicism and the distrust
24 and the lack of confidence that we find in the U. S. today.

25 Tom, I agree with you that it exists. And I think with

1 reason it exists. All institutions have to a great
2 extent lost their credibility. And we in an institution
3 that is so important have lost a great deal of our credibility.
4 But I am just afraid we might destroy it more by this than we
5 would come towards resolving the question at all.

6 Mr. Downing. I can understand the gentleman's feelings.

7 Mr. Long. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

8 Chairman Madden. Mr. Moakley?

9 Mr. Moakley. Actually, I commend you two gentlemen
10 for being so persistent in your quest to have this resolution
11 aired. And I for one am ready to vote for a resolution in some
12 form.

13 One of the questions that confronts me on it, though,
14 is the timing of it. As you well know, we cannot put a select
15 committee in being now that will run longer than the Congress.
16 And I am not too sure that because of the elections, and
17 the type of material that may come into the Press, and some
18 of the people that may be on a commission investigating, or
19 reopening this matter -- whether it may not be a good idea
20 if we do constitute or set up a select committee if that
21 committee would not start until after the election takes place.

22 Do you have any thoughts on that?

23 Mr. Downing. If the committee could agree to that,
24 I would be perfectly agreeable. I just want to get something
25 started. If it delayed a couple of months, I can buy that.

1 But I don't know what it takes to move the committee.

2 But again, I defer to Mr. Anderson's proposal.

3 Perhaps the Church report will dramatically cause
4 you to have a judgment one way or the other.

5 Chairman Madden. Would you yield?

6 Mr. Maokley. I yield, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Madden. I think your suggestion, and Congressman
8 Anderson's suggestion -- because it hadn't been called
9 to my mind -- I remember now about the Church Committee making
10 a report in a month. I think before we act on it we ought
11 to wait for the Church Committee with that report. And it might
12 caset some light on our deliberations here.

13 Mr. Downing. I agree with the Chairman.

14 Mr. Moakley. I am not through, Mr. Chairman.

15 I yielded the time to you. It is still my time.

16 Chairman Madden. All right.

17 Mr. Moakley. Thank you.

18 Henry, you were in the caravan. What was your feeling
19 at the time, immediately following the assassination?

20 What was your feeling about the conspiracy theory?

21 Mr. Gonzalez. Well, I knew that something pretty bad had
22 happened. Nobody knew for sure what. Some even conjectured
23 as we were speeding away in the car, that maybe it wasn't
24 even any real attempt on anybody.

25 However, after arrival at the hospital, I couldn't help

1 but have -- I guess it is only natural when things of
2 this nature happen, you have all kinds of questions going
3 through your mind. I didn't want to entertain any of the distur-
4 ing questions, because there were no facts, no evidentiary,
5 factual material that I could know of that would feed on
6 that suspicion, until 1973. And then, when --

7 Mr. Maokley. Up until 1973 were you satisfied in your
8 own mind that this was the independent act of one person?

9 Mr. Gonzalez. I was not satisfied, but I had no way
10 of contemplating any specific theory, because of the lack
11 of hard facts.

12 I didn't think, or maybe it is I didn't want to believe
13 that it was possible for the head of an FBI to destroy
14 papers entrusted to his care, contrary to the law.

15 I didn't want to believe, though I had heard stories to
16 the effect, that the CIA had violated its grant of authority
17 from the Congress, and was pursuing, or agents of the CIA
18 were pursuing purely domestic surveillance, contrary to
19 their grant of authority.

20 I didn't want to believe that there were such things
21 as double agents for crime and law enforcement institutions,
22 and that the Warren Commission, of all things, would not pursue
23 the background of Jack Ruby any more than they did.

24 As I went into the papers, or exhibits, of the
25 Warren Commission, instead of subduing the questions, more

1 questions arose. And again I say I did not say a word,
2 I didn't utter anything, until the summer of 1973. And when
3 the likes of E. Howard Hunt, Gordon Liddy, and that
4 stripe became very apparent, and you did have hard facts
5 about some possibilities, then the old questions recurred,
6 and it has been strenghtened. And since then, I am now convinced
7 that it was more than just Lee Harvey Oswald.

8 Mr. Moakley. Do you know why the Warren Commission never
9 brought out the fact that Oswald was connected to our U. S.
10 intelligence community?

11 Mr. Gonzalez. Well, we have got to recapture that era,
12 which is very difficult. You never can quite do it.

13 If we had been on the Warren Commission, we probably
14 would have done no different, because we were -- I don't
15 think there was anybody on the Warren Commission that
16 suspected that the FBI would withhold information, that
17 CIA would withhold information. It was inconceivable
18 at the time. And I don't think the suspicion entered anybody's
19 mind.

20 Whether that made any difference or not, the point is that
21 the thrust of the course of the investigation -- we must remember
22 that the Warren Commission was under tremendous pressure,
23 great pressure.

24 By the time they ended their report, they had literally
25 been lambasted in the press for not going anything, and taking

1 so long to do whatever it is they were supposed to be doing.
2 So they were under great pressure. There are reasons that
3 now do not seem logical, but given the time frame, I guess
4 would have been logical.

5 Mr. Downing. May I add to that, Mr. Moakley?

6 In reading the Warren Commission, when the members
7 were discussing the arrival of Attorney General Carr of
8 Texas, bringing information that Oswald was employed by the
9 FBI, they discussed this matter in confidence at some
10 length, as to just what they could do; could they send their
11 own investigator behind J. Edgar Hoover, or should they
12 accept the word of J. Edgar Hoover. And they discussed it
13 quite frankly and finally thought that it would be a sacrilege
14 not to trust J. Edgar Hoover. So they simply asked him, and
15 he said, "No, Mr. Oswald was not employed by the FBI,"
16 and that is as far as it went.

17 Mr. Moakley. Wasn't there some conversation that they
18 knew if J. Edgar Hoover was asked the question he would have
19 denied it anyway because of his position?

20 Mr. Downing. That is correct.

21 Mr. Maokley. Well, then, so as a result of '73, you
22 have changed your mind and decided we should go into this
23 think much more actively.

24 Mr. Gonzalez. Very much so.

25 Mr. Moakley. Do you have any idea what type of select

1 committee you would like to set up, what size, what time
2 it should run?

3 Mr. Gonzalez. I look at a very modest beginning.
4 The Congress has done very well in the past. It hasn't abused
5 its responsibilities. There is no reason for us not to have
6 confidence that given the essential ingredient -- the fact
7 that you have a constituted body by the House, with subpoena
8 powers, and for the first time a Congressionally-empowered body
9 for this year, since this would not be a continuing standing
10 committee -- it is a select committee -- we would have to
11 seek fresh authority come the next Congress, and of course
12 we would have to take our chances with that, and sell whatever
13 it is that it takes to convince the next Congress. But at least
14 a start, at least a beginning of the formulation of the
15 parameters, the scope of what would be proper for this type
16 of a committee.

17 I am not looking into a who-done-it type of situation.
18 It may very well be that when all the dust has settled,
19 the essential findings may or may not be upheld.
20 But at least you have also concentrated on evaluating the
21 impact of these occurrences on our processes.

22 My contention is that this is the real issue. The real
23 issue is we have had leaders of state, our Presidents, or
24 would-be Presidents, eliminated by bullet. We have had a
25 cheating of our electoral processes. We have never had

1 that before. We have always said this happens somewhere else.
2 I think that if nothing else, there is a Congressional
3 responsibility to evaluate ~~this~~ and even perhaps recommend
4 such things as might attenuate and help reduce or prevent
5 that type of an occurrence.

6 Mr. Moakley. I do not know exactly under what law
7 or how they locked up all the evidence until 20039.

8 Mr. Gonzalez. Neither do I -- I don't know what legal
9 sanctions.

10 Mr. Downing. It was an Executive Order. Presumably
11 it was to protect the Kennedy family, so that the children
12 would be old enough or gone.

13 Mr. Moakley. Then if this committee were given full
14 subpoena powers, could you go beyond that Executive power
15 and get those papers?

16 Mr. Downing. Yes, sir.

17 Mr. Moakley. That actually would probably answer most
18 of the questions.

19 Mr. Gonzalez. We believe so.

20 Mr. Moakley. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

21 Chairman Madden. Mr. Young.

22 Mr. Young of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank
23 these gentlemen. I would just like to say that as far as
24 Dr. King's family and friends are concerned, they would
25 like very much to have this kind of committee established

1 that would investigate his assassination. Thinking back
2 to that period, none of us were really concerned about who
3 did it. We were concerned that a nation was being pulled
4 apart, the cities were on fire, and that attempts to do
5 something about the poor in America were being stifled.
6 We thought the best thing we could do was go on and carry on his
7 work as best we could.

8 The question of who did it was of no consequence whatso-
9 ever.

10 But looking back over that period, I think it is fair
11 to assume at least the possibility that there were some
12 people in this nation who were practicing politics by assassina-
13 tion. And not only do I think it is not closed -- I think
14 we have a candidate right now that is leading in all the
15 polls, that is scared to run for President because he is
16 almost sure he would be killed. And I think that if there
17 is any possibility that there was any slight possibility
18 that there was an organized conspiracy involved in any of
19 these assassinations, I think it is the duty of the Congress
20 to look into it. And I would just like to commend
21 you for having persevered.

22 Frankly, I cannot read any of those reports -- I couldn't
23 go on. I get scared myself, frankly. And I go on just
24 by closing my eyes to it and hoping for the best. But I
25 do think that our country would be a lot safer if somebody

1 did at least say that you cannot kill leaders in this
2 country and figure that everybody is going to panic, and
3 not going to look into it.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Chairman Madden. Are you through?

2 Mr. Young of Texas. Yes.

3 Mr. Quillen. Just before the motion is made, Henry, I
4 am sure you didn't mean the implication that may have been
5 involved in your statement when you said after Gordon Liddy
6 and Hunt appeared you thought that it opened up a new avenue.
7 I would hate to think that it is mainly partisan politics
8 under the thing within the accusation --

9 Mr. Gonzalez. That would be the last thought.

10 Mr. Quillen. I just want that clarified.

11 Mr. Gonzalez. I don't know the party either one be-
12 longed to. It is just the fact that these men are rather
13 shady. Gordon Liddy went to prison rather than choose to
14 speak. They were in high position.

15 Mr. Quillen. Within a certain administration.

16 Mr. Gonzalez. No. At the time of Kennedy's death --

17 Mr. Quillen. I just wanted that clarified.

18 Mr. Gonzalez. No, I had forgotten that they had been
19 involved in whatever you call it. No, no, just the fact
20 that they had been -- although they may not have even been
21 the leaders. The chief of the CIA may not have been aware,
22 but the fact of the possibility that men of that thinking, if
23 you read some of the things that Hunt was written and then
24 you realize that he had a tremendously important position in
25 1961, 1962, 1963.

1 Mr. Quillen. I am sure you meant that. I wanted to
2 clarify.

3 Mr. Gonzalez. I appreciate that.

4 Chairman Madden. I did have one question here. I
5 remember after that assassination there were comments in
6 the paper. How did Oswald ever get up in that private room
7 he had up there with his rifle? Was there ever any testi-
8 mony as to how? Did he have a key to that room?

9 Mr. Gonzalez. You will recall that Oswald worked in
10 the depository.

11 Chairman Madden. But weren't there other workmen around?

12 Mr. Gonzalez. This is an area of mystery also.

13 Tom hit on that and he knows more about that.

14 Mr. Downing. Mr. Chairman, he took the gun in apparently
15 wrapped up to resemble wrapped curtain rods, and the Texas
16 Depository apparently is a bit, wide open building, and you
17 could hide things like that very easily. Of course there
18 was another rifle found there, too, nobody has made reference
19 to.

20 Chairman Madden. Everybody has seen that movie, the pic-
21 tures where Ruby is the only civilian among five or six uni-
22 formed policemen waiting for Oswald to come downstairs before
23 Ruby shot him. Was there ever any evidence that the police-
24 man suspected Ruby, or how did Ruby take such an active part
25 in that operation?

1 Mr. Downing. Ruby was well known to the Dallas police.
2 The FBI had hired him on eight or nine occasions. Apparently
3 this man was everywhere.

4 We have a man in the room from the depository that saw
5 him and talked to him at Parkland Hospital the day of the ass-
6 assination. So the man was just everywhere, and apparently he
7 had good relations to the Dallas police, and they had no ob-
8 jection to him being in that sensitive spot at that critical
9 time.

10 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Chairman, I have a motion. I simply move
11 to defer action on this matter at this time. If I can be
12 heard very briefly I have no objection to the position taken
13 by Mr. Anderson. I think it would be an unfortunate mistake
14 if we set any time certain to get back. Let me be perfectly
15 frank.

16 I am totally opposed to this whole procedure. I will
17 do anything I can to kill it. I will use any means at my com-
18 mand ethically to see there is never such a committee created.
19 I think it is a most unfortunate situation.

20 But on the other hand I recognize that it is a matter
21 that comes down ultimately to a majority vote of this commit-
22 tee.

23 Chairman Madden. Pardon me just a moment.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 Mr. Sisk. I will conclude very quickly, Mr. Chairman,

1 that we do have, I know, 2 other members of the committee
2 that I am sure will be concerned in the case of a final vote
3 on this particular matter. I have discussed the matter
4 with them. I simply move to defer action and then of course
5 subject to the call of the Chair sometime in the future
6 bring the matter up, subject of course to majority rule of
7 the committee.

8 Mr. Anderson. Mr. Chairman, may I make a substitute
9 motion?

10 Chairman Madden. State it.

11 Mr. Anderson. I move, Mr. Chairman, that we postpone
12 consideration of this resolution until such time as this com-
13 mittee has had the benefit of the report to be issued by
14 the Senate Intelligence Committee.

15 Very briefly, I will not take the time of the committee
16 except to say that I have been sufficiently impressed by
17 the case that the gentlemen have made, that I do not want
18 to defer the matter indefinitely but I do want to have the
19 benefit of that particular investigation before I finally
20 make up my mind on this matter. That is why I specifically
21 would pinpoint any postponement to not beyond that time be-
22 cause I think the indefinite postponement would be that the
23 report would come in and we would not get back to the issue.

24 Mr. Sisk. I did not postpone indefinitely. It could
be called up this afternoon or tomorrow under my motion. I

1 recognize that there might be something of interest in a
2 Senate report, and maybe that will defer it longer than my
3 motion would, and that would suit me that much better if
4 it would in fact, and I have expressed myself very clearly.

5 Of course I will have a lot more to say if the thing
6 ever got back up here again. I do feel very strongly on
7 this. I just don't think it would be a terrible thing for
8 our committee to act other than simply to defer, but I want
9 to make it clear I don't care one way or the other how it
10 is deferred.

11 Chairman Madden. I would like to make this statement.
12 As Chairman of the Rules Committee, I have a lot of mail
13 pro and con on this legislation, but mostly pro, and I have
14 newspaper clippings from the West Coast and all over the
15 country because word got out this committee was holding it
16 up or blocking it.

17 I do think Congressman Anderson's motion to wait until
18 we hear from that Senate committee and then I think our com-
19 mittee can easily meet then or sometime in the future if
20 the committee wants to and dispose of this one way or the
21 other.

22 Mr. Sisk. May I have one further question I would like
23 to address to my colleague from Illinois. Is it inherent in
24 his motion this committee would then meet after such report?

25 Mr. Anderson. That is what I intended to state.

1 Mr. Sisk. I would still have to vote no on that.

2 Chairman Madden. We could meet if the committee would
3 agree to it.

4 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Chairman, this seems rather important
5 to me if in fact he is moving to a time certain.

6 Chairman Madden. No, he is not moving to a time cer-
7 tain.

8 Mr. Moakley. You are not going to meet until after
9 the Chairman's report?

10 Mr. Anderson. That is right.

11 Chairman Madden. The motion on Congressman Anderson's
12 substitute is now in order. All in favor of the motion of
13 the gentleman from Illinois signify by saying aye.

14 Mr. Long. Please call the vote again.

15 Chairman Madden. The gentleman from Illinois. All
16 signify by saying aye.

17 Noes.

18 The ayes have it.

19 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Chairman, I ask for a roll call on that.
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Mr. Battle. Mr. Delaney.
2 Mr. Delaney. No.
3 Mr. Battle. Mr. Bolling.
4 Mr. Bolling is not here.
5 Mr. Sisk.
6 Mr. Sisk. No.
7 Mr. Battle. Mr. Young of Texas.
8 Mr. Young (Texas). No.
9 Mr. Battle. Mr. Pepper.
10 Mr. Pepper is not here.
11 Mr. Matsunaga.
12 Mr. Matsunaga. Aye.
13 Mr. Battle. Mr. Murphy.
14 Mr. Murphy. No.
15 Mr. Battle. Mr. Long.
16 Mr. Long. No.
17 Mr. Battle. Mr. Moakley.
18 Mr. Moakley. Aye.
19 Mr. Battle. Mr. Young of Georgia.
20 Mr. Young (Georgia). Aye.
21 Mr. Battle. Mr. Quillen.
22 Mr. Quillen. Aye.
23 Mr. Battle. Mr. Anderson.
24 Mr. Anderson. Aye.
25 Mr. Battle. Mr. Latta.

1 Mr. Latta. Aye.

2 Mr. Battle. Mr. Clawson.

3 Mr. Clawson. No.

4 Mr. Battle. Mr. Lott.

5 Mr. Lott. No.

6 Mr. Battle. Chairman Madden.

7 Chairman Madden. Aye.

8 Mr. Battle. The ayes are seven and the nays are seven.

9 Chairman Madden. It is defeated.

10 Mr. Long. I call a question on the motion of the
11 gentleman from California..

12 Mr. Sisk. I have a question on my motion. I defer it.

13 Chairman Madden. You have heard the motion of the
14 gentleman from California. All in favor, signify by saying
15 aye.

16 Opposed, no.

17 The ayes have it.

18 Mr. Latta. I request a roll call.

19 Mr. Battle. Mr. Delaney.

20 Mr. Delaney. Aye.

21 Mr. Battle. Mr. Bolling.

22 Mr. Bolling is not here.

23 Mr. Sisk.

24 Mr. Sisk. Aye.

25 Mr. Battle. Mr. Young of Texas.

1 Mr. Young (Texas) Aye.
2 Mr. Battle. Mr. Pepper.
3 Mr. Pepper is not here.
4 Mr. Matsunaga.
5 Mr. Matsunaga. Aye.
6 Mr. Battle. Mr. Murphy.
7 Mr. Murphy. Aye.
8 Mr. Battle. Mr. Long.
9 Mr. Long. Aye.
10 Mr. Battle. Mr. Moakley.
11 Mr. Moakley. No.
12 Mr. Battle. Mr. Young of Georgia.
13 Mr. Young (Georgia) No.
14 Mr. Battle. Mr. Quillen.
15 Mr. Quillen. Aye.
16 Mr. Battle. Mr. Anderson.
17 Mr. Anderson. No.
18 Mr. Battle. Mr. Latta.
19 Mr. Latta. No.
20 Mr. Battle. Mr. Clawson.
21 Mr. Clawson. Aye.
22 Mr. Battle. Mr. Lott.
23 Mr. Lott. No.
24 Mr. Battle. Mr. Bolling.
25 Mr. Bolling. Aye.

1 Mr. Battle. Chairman Madden.

2 Chairman Madden. No.

3 Mr. Battle. The ayes are nine and the nays are six.

4 Chairman Madden. It is so ordered.

5 We will meet tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

6 (Thereupon, at 3:12 p.m., the committee adjourned to
7 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1, 1976.)

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Mr. Battle. Chairman Madden.

2 Chairman Madden. No.

3 Mr. Battle. The ayes are nine and the nays are six.

4 Chairman Madden. It is so ordered.

5 We will meet tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

6 (Thereupon, at 3:12 p.m., the committee adjourned to
7 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1, 1976.)

94TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1540

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. DOWNING of Virginia, and Mr. FAUNTROY)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on Rules

RESOLUTION

1 *Resolved*, That there is hereby created a select commit-
2 tee to be composed of twelve Members of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom
4 he shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in
5 the membership of the select committee shall be filled in the
6 same manner in which the original appointment was made.

7 The select committee is authorized and directed to con-
8 duct a full and complete investigation and study of the cir-
9 cumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and
10 the death of Martin Luther King, Junior, and of any others
11 the select committee shall determine.

12 For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the select

1 committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the
2 select committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and
3 act during the present Congress at such times and places
4 within the United States, including any Commonwealth or
5 possession thereof, whether the House is in session, has re-
6 cessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to re-
7 quire, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony
8 of such witnesses and the production of such books, records,
9 correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it
10 deems necessary; except that neither the select committee
11 nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is
12 meeting under the five minute rule unless special leave to sit
13 shall have been obtained from the House. The chairman of
14 the select committee may establish such subcommittees of the
15 select committee as he considers appropriate. A majority of
16 the members of the select committee shall constitute a quorum
17 for the transaction of business, except that the select com-
18 mittee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the
19 purpose of taking testimony. The select committee may em-
20 ploy and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, con-
21 sultants, technicians, attorneys, investigators, and clerical and
22 stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out
23 the purposes of this resolution. The select committee may re-
24 imburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and
25 other necessary expenses incurred by them in the perform-

1 ance of the duties vested in the select committee, other than
2 expenses in connection with meetings of the select commit-
3 tee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of Co-
4 lumbia. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the
5 chairman of the select committee or any member of the select
6 committee designated by him, and may be served by any
7 person designated by such chairman or member.

8 The select committee shall report to the House as soon
9 as practicable during the present Congress the results of its
10 investigation and study, together with such recommendations
11 as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when
12 the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of
13 the House.

September 17, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 10356

maintaining the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor and the cooperation of all the Members is requested.

PROVIDING COMPENSATION AT MAXIMUM PAY LEVELS FOR EMPLOYEES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 8) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 8

Resolved, That, until otherwise provided by law—

(1) each employee referred to in subsection (a) of the first sentence of House Resolution 413, Ninety-fourth Congress, adopted May 8, 1975.

(2) each employee in a position referred to in subsection (b) of section 523 of Public Law 91-510, and

(3) each individual with respect to whose compensation House Resolution 890, Ninety-second Congress, was made permanent law by Public Law 93-607.

may be compensated at a rate not in excess of the rate of basic pay for one pay level above the maximum pay level for employees of the House of Representatives provided under clause 6(c) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CREATING SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 9

Resolved, That, effective January 3, 1977, there is hereby created a Select Committee on Assassinations to be composed of twelve Members and Delegates of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as Chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Select Committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The Select Committee or a Subcommittee thereof is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death of President John F. Kennedy and the assassination, murder, homicide and death of Martin Luther King, Jr. and of any other persons the Select Committee shall determine in order to ascertain whether the existing laws of the United States, including but not limited to laws relating to the safety and protection of the President of the United States, assassinations of the President of the United States, deprivation of civil rights, and conspiracies related thereto, as well as the investigatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments of the United States Government, are adequate, either in their provisions or in the manner of their enforcement; and shall make recommendations to the House, if the Select Committee deems it appropriate, for the amendment of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation.

For the purpose of carrying out this reso-

lution the Select Committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the Select Committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, or in any other country, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary; to take testimony on oath anywhere within the United States or in any other country and to authorize designated counsel for the Select Committee to obtain statements from any witness who is placed under oath by an authority who is authorized to administer oaths in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States or of any state; except that neither the Select Committee nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is reading a measure for amendment under the five minute rule unless special leave to sit shall have been obtained from the House. The Chairman of the Select Committee may establish such subcommittees of the Select Committee as he considers appropriate. One-third of the Members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business as permitted by the rules of the House, except that the Select Committee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony, but not less than two. The Select Committee may employ and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, consultants, technicians, attorneys, investigators, and clerical and stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution. The Select Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Select Committee, other than expenses in connection with meetings of the Select Committee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of Columbia.

Subpoenas may be authorized by the select committee, or any subcommittee thereof, or the chairman of the select committee, and issued under the signature of the chairman of the select committee or any member of the Select Committee designated by him, and may be served by any persons designated by such chairman or member.

The select committee shall be considered a committee of the House of Representatives for all purposes of law, including but not limited to section 102 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 192); and sections 6002 and 6005 of title 18, United States Code or any other act of Congress regulating the granting of immunity to witnesses.

The select committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedures, which rules shall not be inconsistent with this resolution and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The select committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, will the gentleman from Texas, the new majority leader, tell us whether it is possible in the change of rules for the House Com-

mittee on Administration to allocate money to this particular function without a vote of the House?

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, and I will yield for confirmation to the House Committee on Administration, that absent an amendment of this type, there would be means by which the committee makes funds available to this special committee.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. The gentleman from New Jersey at the moment is not chairman of the Committee on Administration.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Is there any doubt in the gentleman's mind that the gentleman will be?

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, with the experiences of the past, it might be reasonable with this rule; but earlier in the day the House adopted the rule so that all select, special, ad hoc and other type committees, before they can be funded, must introduce resolutions which will go to the Committee on House Administration, to its Subcommittee on Accounts, the prospective chairman being our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Dwyer); then to the full committee and then to the floor.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. So what the gentleman is saying, before the committee can function further in that respect, coming from the chairmanship the gentleman formerly held, it must be brought to the floor.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the answer to that is "Yes." The House will have the opportunity to consider the resolution not only for the committee to which the distinguished majority leader is referring, but to all other special, select, and ad hoc committees.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, the effect of this resolution is really based on a continuing resolution until a further resolution is passed.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, that is precisely correct.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. Essentially the resolution of the gentleman from Texas is to reconstitute the committee. The committee, presuming the adoption of the next resolution, which is a continuing resolution, will be entitled to the equivalent of 1 month's expenditure, or approximately \$8,000 per month, until the House acts on the larger budget request.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comment. That was my next question. We are then, in effect, voting to fund this select committee for 1 more month when the Hou-

September 17, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 10357

House is in session and also provides that the select committee shall have subpoena power.

On Wednesday, September 15, the Rules Committee reported this resolution by a vote of 9 to 4, with 1 abstention. Our committee feels that the time is right to begin an investigation of how these assassinations occurred.

As chairman of the Rules Committee, I have received hundreds of letters and telegrams from all over the country on this issue. An overwhelming majority have strongly urged approval of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I support House Resolution 1540, and I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. YATES. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MADDEN. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. YATES. Madam Speaker, I ask the gentleman this question: What does the phrase mean following the granting of authority for investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and I quote, "of any others the Select Committee shall determine"?

May this committee investigate the assassination attempts on the life of Castro, for example? Can it examine any assassination attempt it wishes to?

Mr. MADDEN. Madam Speaker, I will yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) to answer that question.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I would like to advise my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Yates), that "any others" has no specific meaning.

I myself wish the words had never been included in the resolution, but it would be up to the determination of the committee as to what "any others" means.

It could mean that if there was a possible assassination attempt on the life of the present President, the committee, I suppose, would have the discretion to go into that. However, it would be entirely up to the judgment of the committee.

Mr. YATES. Madam Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I share the gentleman's statement when he says he wishes this phrase was not in there.

I think it gives the committee enormous power to go into any possible kind of assassination attempt on any person throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I wonder why this phrase should have been inserted. I wonder why the Committee on Rules included it.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Presumably it could mean what the gentleman says. However, I think we are going to trust the judgment of the committee to do what is right. This phrase pertains to American leaders, not persons.

YATES. Madam Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, it seems to me the committee's investigation of

the assassinations of former President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., would be enough of a charge upon the committee. I would hope that there would be no effort to go into any other.

I believe it gives the committee far too much power, power beyond the original intent of the resolution.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I have told the gentleman that I wish the words were not in there; but I can assure him that insofar as I have anything to do with it, I would not want the power to be too broad, and I hope the gentleman from Illinois votes for the resolution.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MADDEN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Madden, for yielding to me.

Let me say that I raised the same question before the Committee on Rules. I would like to ask the gentleman why this language should not be stricken when this matter comes on for debate today?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I have no objection to striking those words.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the chairman.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. McKinney).

(Mr. McKinney asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McKinney. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to congratulate the Committee on Rules on this resolution. This is something I became involved in about 5 years ago. I do not know of any plots or any secrets, but I do know that I think the attitude of the American people is that there are questions that have not been put to rest. I think the questions that have not been put to rest about the Government have severely damaged the credibility of our Nation's Government and of our system.

I would hope that this committee quietly, very seriously and in a very hard working fashion can come out with the final answers that the American people have asked.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Dickinson).

(Mr. Dickinson asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Dickinson. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I too have some very real doubts as to some of the circumstances involved, particularly those surrounding the Kennedy assassination and perhaps we can get at some of the facts and questions that have been raised such as the unnatural deaths of certain of the people connected with the assassination, incidents that seem to be continuing right up to now as for in-

stance, the recent murder of Roselli a month or two ago.

But, Mr. Speaker, my most immediate interest is as to the funding of the committee and I would like to have the attention of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) who will be the chairman of the committee.

I am curious as I say, as to the nature of the funding. First, we are limited to this Congress and, of course, we have the proposed date of October 2 for adjournment although I do not know that we will get out at that time. I would ask the gentleman from Virginia if he has any idea as to how much it will cost? I assume they will come to our committee for the funds they need, or it is going to be a direct tap on the contingency fund? How much does the gentleman anticipate it will cost?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the gentleman from Alabama is correct in his assumption in the first instance that we will appear before his committee and ask for funds. We will ask for, it is estimated, \$250,000. This will be for organizational purposes, setting up of the staff, and so forth, so the committee will be ready to go at the next session of the Congress.

Mr. DICKINSON. The gentleman says "at the next session of the Congress," so I assume the gentleman does not anticipate that this special subcommittee will make any substantial progress in investigating this year. Will the committee make any report during this present Congress even though the gentleman does not expect to conduct or finish any investigations until the following Congress? I ask that, Mr. Speaker, because the resolution says:

The Select Committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study . . .

From what the gentleman has told me the gentleman does not even anticipate making a serious start until the next Congress. Could the gentleman explain that?

THE SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 additional minutes to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. DICKINSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the additional time.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further to me?

Mr. DICKINSON. I would be pleased to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Under the terms of the resolution the committee will have to file a report at the end of this Congress as to the progress of the committee during the interim period. It is not expected that there will be any formal hearings, certainly before election. It may be necessary to hold some hearings in order to preserve testimony I just cannot assure the gentleman from Alabama that it will or will not hold hearings in that regard.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, much as I sympathize with the objectives of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing), w

must remember that the select committee expires with each Congress.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. That would mean the creation of this select committee, then, presumably, it would appear before the Committee on House Administration for funding purposes, then the organization of the committee, so that there would be relatively little time within which to do anything before the end of this Congress. Then the select committee would expire and there would be the reconstitution of the whole process all over again in the next Congress.

It just seems to me a meritorious idea—and I say this with all respect to my dear friend, the gentleman from Virginia, who will not be with us, unfortunately, next year—that this matter, if it does deserve the attention the gentleman is convinced that it does deserve, should really wait until the 95th Congress.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. If the gentleman would yield further, we have got to get started sometime. I will say to the gentleman from New Jersey, that this thing has been put off too long. The longer we wait, the more difficult it will be to obtain whatever evidence still remains out there. If we can get it organized, get our priorities, and get our directions set in the remaining days of this Congress, then the 95th Congress can start off right away with substantial hearings.

Mr. THOMPSON. If the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DICKINSON) would yield further, I wish to point out the factual situation as I see it.

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING).

(Mr. DOWNING of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today marks the culmination for me—and others, too, I suppose—of 15 months of intensive work and efforts to try to persuade this body to reinvestigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

I want to thank the Speaker; I want to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle; I want to thank the Committee on Rules for giving the House this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1540, which is sponsored by Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. FAUNTROY, and me, is the refinement of a number of similar resolutions sponsored by approximately 135 Members of this body.

Two or 3 years ago—perhaps even 1 year ago—only a small fraction of us would have looked with favor upon this establishment of a select committee to reexamine the assassinations of several of our national leaders. However, today, I believe that there is overwhelming support in this House and throughout the country for an in-depth study into these traumatic events, in order to ascertain the truth, or at the very least, dispell doubts concerning them.

Most of us have reached our conclusion as to the necessity of a select committee reluctantly. However, the revelations of the last year or two have been both shocking and sobering.

Committees of both the House and the Senate have proven that much vital information was withheld from the Warren Commission. The CIA and its former Director, Allen Dulles, pointedly withheld all information relating to the multiple plots, which the U.S. Government launched, in an effort to assassinate Fidel and Raul Castro. To underline the importance of this conscious effort to deceive, we have the recent violent and unexplained murders of Sam Giancana and John Roselli, the two Mafia chiefs who were recruited by the CIA for the assassination plots against the Cuban leaders, which I think is deplorable.

A subcommittee of the House, chaired by our colleague from California, Mr. EDWARDS, has shown how a threatening note sent by Dee Harvey Oswald to an FBI agent, shortly before President Kennedy's murder, was torn up and flushed down a toilet rather than delivered to the Warren Commission.

We know that the original autopsy notes of the chief surgeon in President Kennedy's autopsy were burned in the doctor's recreation-room fireplace.

We know that Jack Ruby had many ties to both the Mafia and to Cuba, which were either unknown to the Warren Commission, or ignored by it.

The list of such items is almost endless.

In light of all of this, there is little wonder that very few people any longer have faith in the Warren Commission's conclusions that Oswald, and Oswald alone, was responsible for the death of President Kennedy, or that Ruby, likewise, was a "lone nut killer."

In a recent CBS poll, 65 percent of those polled said they did not believe the Warren Commission's conclusions. In a Detroit News poll, it was 87 percent. In addition, most of our leading newspapers and journals now have called for a reopening of the case.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution concerns only assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. If and when the select committee reaches a conclusion that other cases should be reexamined in depth, it will have authority to conduct such investigations.

However, for the present, the committee's efforts will be concentrated on the deaths of these two national leaders.

It is my hope and my expectation that this select committee shall be nonpartisan, and nonpolitical. It will be dealing with matters of grave concern to all Americans, regardless of their political party, race, or section of the country. I can foresee no partisan aspect to the work of the committee. And to the extent that I am privileged to participate in its work, I shall do everything in my power to see that it remains above politics.

This committee will engage in no witch hunts. Its purpose is to arrive at the truth, not to blame those who may have erred in the original investigations.

For my part, the only conclusion I have

reached concerning the murders of President Kennedy or Dr. King is that we do not know the complete truth. Certainly in the case of President Kennedy, I am convinced that there was a conspiracy involved. I do not, however, know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. It is this that we must prove in depth.

So that there will be no question about the nonpolitical nature of the proposed committee, it has been agreed that there will be no public hearings held prior to the election in November. Some hearings may be scheduled for later this year, but most of the time will be spent in organizing staff, setting priorities, and obtaining a mass of official records. This will set the stage for prompt and deliberate action by the select committee when, as I strongly urge and expect, it will be reestablished in the 95th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that each of us remembers the manner in which we heard of the assassinations of President Kennedy and of Dr. King. We may forget many of the details of our lives, but each one of us will always remember where we were, what we were doing, how we heard about these assassinations, and our own personal reaction to them.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go home and face my people unless I can assure them that I have done by utmost to provide them with the knowledge of what really happened to John F. Kennedy, their President. I want them to know what happened to Dr. King. I want to be able to tell them that no one has stood in their way of learning the truth. I want to help restore in them the credibility of their Government. That they need.

I want to leave this as my legacy to the Members of the 95th Congress, the pleasure of whose country I have chosen, with great reluctance, to deny myself.

INTERROGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Lee Harvey Oswald was questioned by Dallas police and by seven FBI officials for approximately 12 hours. There are no stenographic transcripts of his interrogation. No tape recorded record of the questioning was made. Capt. Will Fritz, chief of homicide, "kept no notes." The sole source of information about the interrogations are reports, based in large part on memory, prepared by some of those present and covering some of the interrogation sessions. There are no reports for several of the interrogation sessions on Friday afternoon. No transcripts were made of Oswald's arraignments for either of the two homicides with which he was charged.

Oswald was taken into custody at approximately 2 p.m. on Friday and was murdered in the basement of the Dallas Police and Courts Building on Sunday shortly after 11 a.m. Throughout his detention, Oswald was without legal representation.

On Friday evening representatives from the Dallas Civil Liberties' appeared at the police department to determine whether Oswald was deprived of counsel and they were by police officials that Oswald was formed of his rights and free to lawyer. They sought permission to

September 17, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 10359

with Oswald but were unable to meet with him.

The fact that the 12 hours of interrogation by FBI agents of Lee Harvey Oswald, perhaps the most important defendant and witness in the history of our country, are lost to us forever, raises the most serious questions. What did Oswald say? Why are we unable to learn of his comments? Only a congressional committee that asks those questions of the seven FBI agents can provide answers for America.

BURNED AUTOPSY MATERIAL

There is general agreement that an analysis of the preliminary autopsy materials would shed further light on the possibilities of the Commission's "single bullet" theory, a theory which is crucial to the Commission's conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin. However, chief autopsy surgeon, Comdr. James J. Humes, burned "preliminary draft notes" relating to the autopsy upon the body of President Kennedy. When Humes testified before the Warren Commission on March 16, 1964, he testified that:

In the privacy of my own home, early in the morning of Sunday, November 24, I made a draft of this report which I later revised, and of which this (handwritten report of autopsy report) represents the revision. That draft I personally burned in the fireplace of my recreation room.

Commission Counsel Arien Spector, author of the "single bullet" theory, did not ask Humes why he destroyed a crucial piece of Federal evidence in the case against Oswald.

JACK RUBY AND THE FBI

According to Commission Document 1052 Jack Ruby worked for the FBI as an informant on organized crime in Dallas from March 11, 1959, to October 2, 1959. During that time he was contacted on nine separate occasions by Dallas FBI Special Agent Charles W. Flynn. J. Lee Rankin, general counsel for the Warren Commission received this information by courier service from J. Edgar Hoover on June 9, 1964.

Leon D. Hubert, Jr., and Bert W. Griffin, the two Commission lawyers in charge of investigating Ruby's background were not provided any information on his underworld or law enforcement affiliations. Thus the Warren Commission did not know and did not reveal the relationship between Jack Ruby and the FBI.

ROBERT R. McKEOWN AND JACK RUBY

In 1959, while Jack Ruby was an informant for the FBI, he went to Havana, Cuba, where he stayed at the Tropicana Hotel owned by Meyer Lansky, a king pin in organized crime. Before Ruby went to Cuba he attempted to secure a letter of introduction to Fidel Castro from Robert R. McKeown. According to the statement of McKeown, Ruby offered \$25,000 for the letter of introduction to Castro.

The year was 1959—the year organized crime entered into an alliance with the intelligence community to assassinate Fidel Castro. The two Warren Commission lawyers assigned to investigate Jack Ruby's background, Leon D. Hubert, Jr., the former district attorney of New Or-

leans, and Burt Griffin, now a judge in Cleveland, Ohio, insisted in four separate memorandums that the Commission call McKeown as a witness. The Commission did not call McKeown and did not ask Ruby any questions about the matter.

POSSIBLE OSWALD LINK TO CIA

Before Oswald went to Mexico in September of 1963, he had to get an entry permit from the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans. After the assassination, the FBI investigated everyone who had gotten permits in New Orleans on the same day as Oswald. To their horror, they discovered that the man immediately preceding Oswald was one William George Gaudet, a man who had worked for the CIA since its founding in 1947. After much discussion between the CIA, the FBI, and the Warren Commission, it was decided not to call Gaudet as a witness, nor even to let his identity be known until the year 2039. However, recently, and apparently by accident, Gaudet's name was made public, and he has affirmed the story of the entry permit and the coverup.

This coverup by itself is bad enough, but it becomes more sinister when one realizes that CIA-man Gaudet not only stood in line ahead of Oswald, he also had knowledge of Ruby's activities. In fact, Gaudet told the FBI on November 27, 1963—4 days after the murder—of Ruby's activities in New Orleans.

Yet to this day, Gaudet has never been subpoenaed, put under oath and questioned publicly about the links between himself, Oswald, and Ruby—and the CIA.

THE WARREN COMMISSION'S SECRET MEETINGS

Two documents recently declassified, the January 22, 1964, and the January 27, 1964, transcripts of the Warren Commission executive sessions, provide interesting reading.

The members of the Commission decided to destroy the minutes of the meetings so that the American people might not know what the Commission discussed. The minutes survived, and they reveal that the general counsel for the Warren Commission, J. Lee Rankin, reported that the two highest law enforcement officials in Texas, Waggoner Carr, the attorney general of Texas, and Henry Wade, the Dallas district attorney, both had proof that Lee Harvey Oswald was an employee of the FBI. Rankin suggested that an examination of the FBI records would reveal that Oswald worked for the FBI, but he added that Hoover would probably deny that Oswald was the agent referred to in the FBI files. Allan Dulles assured Chief Justice Warren that Hoover would not tell the Commission the truth, even under oath, if Oswald did work for the FBI. Dulles said that a good agent would lie under similar circumstances.

The Commission agreed to call the five relevant witnesses on the questioning of Oswald's employment by the FBI and to subpoena Oswald's FBI file as well. By the end of the second meeting, the Commission decided not to call the five relevant witnesses and not to subpoena the records of the FBI. Instead, the Warren Com-

mission relied exclusively upon the testimony of Mr. Hoover regarding Oswald's association with the FBI.

Yet for many Americans this question remains an open one. A question which must be resolved if we are to know how—and why John Kennedy was assassinated. TAPED CONVERSATION OF "OSWALD" IN MEXICO CITY

When Oswald visited Mexico City in September 1963, someone made several visits and phone calls to the Soviet and Cuban Embassies using the Oswald identity.

That there is some doubt that the person visiting and phoning the embassies was in fact Lee Harvey Oswald is evidenced by the fact that many photographs of "Oswald" were taken by CIA cameras outside both embassies. Each and every photograph which has been printed loose from the Government—and they are still withholding some—are of a man who is about 6 feet 2 inches, 175 pounds, 35 years old, and burly. "Our" Oswald was 5 feet 9 inches, 135 pounds, 24 years old, and slim. The pictures are obviously not of Oswald, though so identified by the CIA.

At the same time, the CIA—through some unknown means—tapped and taped the telephone calls of "Oswald" to the Soviet and/or Cuban Embassies. These recorded conversations were withheld from the Warren Commission. Had they been made available, or if they were made available today, voice prints of them could be made and compared with voice prints of known conversations of Lee Oswald. Then we would know for sure if there was someone else using Oswald's identity in Mexico City. And, if there are two Oswalds for sure, we can wager great odds that there was a conspiracy involved in the death of our President.

SECRET WIRETAPS

After the assassination, the Federal Government placed a number of wiretaps but withheld most of the "fruits" of these taps from the Warren Commission.

We are certain as to one crucial tap because of an FBI report declassified only weeks ago. This tap was either on the home phone of the Paine residence or the business phone of Michael Paine. It must be remembered that the Paines were the Oswald's closest friends in Dallas; in fact, Marina Oswald was living at the Paine residence at the time of the assassination. Oswald ostensibly stored his rifle in the Paine's garage.

On the day after the assassination, the FBI overheard Ruth and Michael Paine telling each other over the telephone that, although Oswald did the shooting, "We know who is responsible." Apparently the tapes from the conversation were withheld, because when the Paines were questioned at a later date, they denied the fact that the conversation had taken place. The FBI dropped the subject without ever facing them with a tape or an FBI agent who had monitored the conversation.

If the Oswalds' best friends, the Paines, know "who was responsible," is it not about time that the American people know?

ALLAN DULLES AND ASSASSINATIONS

A leading member of the Warren Commission was Allan Dulles. Mr. Dulles had been the Director of the CIA from 1953 until after the Bay of Pigs in 1961. During this time, Dulles, as the head of the CIA, must have been privy to the fact that the CIA had been actively engaged in many attempts to murder Fidel Castro in the years 1959-61.

The grimy details of the CIA excesses—especially the use made by the CIA of the Mafia in its murder plots—have been recently documented by the Church committee.

Yet, despite the Warren Commission's great interest in Oswald's many links to Cuba and to both pro-Fidel and anti-Fidel factions, Allan Dulles never said one word to the other members of the Commission about the attempts on the life of Castro. Had Allan Dulles been more forthcoming, the whole direction of the Warren investigation might have been radically different and its conclusions radically altered.

When we have a new investigation of the Dallas murder—and we will have one, whether it is this year, next year, or 10 years hence—the investigators can now realistically weigh the evidence withheld from Earl Warren by Allan Dulles to see if John Kennedy's death was directly or indirectly caused by his administration's attempts on the life of Fidel Castro.

THE MURDER WEAPON

A rifle was discovered on the sixth floor of the book depository building at 1:22 p.m. on November 22, 1963. The Dallas authorities told the press later that day that the weapon was a 7.65 German Mauser. Dallas District Attorney Wade repeated this information at a formal televised press conference and it was widely publicized. Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman, on November 23, 1963, in a notarized affidavit, described the rifle he and Deputy Sheriff Boone found as "a 7.65 Mauser, bolt action equipped with a 4/18 scope, a thick leather brownish black sling on it." In a filmed interview in April 1974, Roger Craig, a deputy Sheriff also present when the rifle was found stated:

I was standing next to Weitzman, he was standing next to Fritz, and we weren't any more than six or eight inches from the rifle, and stamped right on the barrel of the rifle was 7.65 Mauser. And that's when Weitzman said, "it is a Mauser," and pointed to the 7.65 Mauser stamp on the barrel.

This description of the rifle is incompatible with the Warren Commission's case against Oswald. Although the FBI reported that Oswald owned a rifle it was not similar to the one reportedly found on the book depository sixth floor. According to the FBI, the rifle Oswald had purchased was a Mannlicher/Carcano, 6.5 Italian carbine. This rifle, which the Warren Commission identified as the murder weapon, is available for examination in the National Archives. Any individual, regardless of his experience in firearms, can clearly see it is an Italian rifle because stamped clearly on the rifle are the words, "Made Italy" and "Cal. 6.5." It is unlikely that two police officers upon close inspection

would have made such a case of mistaken identification.

Recently declassified CIA documents add further evidence that "Oswald's" rifle was not the rifle found in the book depository. A CIA report, dated November 25, 1963, states:

On November 22, 1963 Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy while the President was riding in an open automobile on a Dallas Texas street. The rifle used was a Mauser. . .

A second CIA report dated 5 days after the assassination states:

NOVEMBER 28, 1963.

INFORMATION ON THE WEAPON PRESUMABLY USED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

1. As regards articles appearing recently in the Italian and foreign press concerning the presumed use of an Italian-made rifle in the slaying of President Kennedy, the following comments are made.

2. The weapon which appears to have been employed in this criminal attack is a model 91 rifle, 7.35 caliber, 1938 modification.

3. The description of a "Mannlicher Carcano" rifle in the Italian and foreign press is in error.

It should be clear that the initial identification of the rifle as a 7.65 Mauser clearly was not, as the Commission maintained, because Deputy Constable Weitzman "thought it looked like a Mauser." Since the Commission's case against Oswald as the lone assassin is built almost exclusively on his ownership of the 6.5 Mannlicher/Carcano, the identification of the murder weapon as 7.65 Mauser tends to discredit the entire case.

The report of the Warren Commission includes reference to a trip by Lee Harvey Oswald to Mexico City in late September of 1963, where on September 28 he visited both the Cuban and the Soviet Embassies. The report mentions that while he was in the Soviet Embassy he spoke with the Soviet Consul Kostikov, who also served as a KGB agent. Oswald referred to him as "Comrad Kostin." There is no further reference in the Warren Commission report as to the identity of Kostikov. We learned this in the recent release of some 1,500 CIA documents. I quote from one of the documents:

NOTE.—Valeriy Vladimirovich Kostikov, who has functioned overtly as a consul in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City since September 1961, is also known to be a staff officer of the KGB. He is connected with the thirteenth, or Liquid Affairs Department, whose responsibilities include assassination and sabotage.

Upon reading this, my suspicions were very definitely aroused. Here we have the man who is considered to be the assassin of President Kennedy visiting a Soviet official whose responsibilities, according to the CIA, include assassination. I find the whole thing highly suspicious. I find it incredible. I would like to know more about Oswald's KGB contact. I would like to know why this is not mentioned in the Commission report.

THE HOSTY LETTER

Just as the FBI destroyed evidence in the Watergate case, equally did it do so in the Dallas case.

In one crucial instance we know that a few days before the assassination, Os-

wald hand-delivered to the FBI office in Dallas a threatening letter addressed to FBI Agent James Hosty. Two hours after Ruby shot Oswald, Hosty tore up the note and a memorandum about it, and flushed them down a toilet in the FBI office.

How can we be so sure of the details of this incident? Because a subcommittee of the House, chaired by the Honorable Don Edwards, held a full-fledged hearing under oath on this subject not more than a few months ago. Such facts as I have stated are perfectly clear.

What is not clear is: First, the nature of the threats in the letter; second, did J. Edgar Hoover know of the letter; third, who ordered the letter destroyed; and fourth, why was it so crucial to hide the whole incident from the Warren Commission?

At the Edwards hearing, the testimony of various FBI witnesses was radically contradictory. As they were under oath, at least some of the witnesses were perjuring themselves, 12 years after the fact.

The aim of the FBI appeared obvious from Hosty's answers to questions from Chairman Edwards. He said he did not tell the Commission about the Oswald letter because he was not asked. He did not volunteer the information because he had been instructed not to volunteer anything that would be of help to the Commission.

To the extent I am privileged to participate in its work, I shall do everything in my power to see that the committee remains above politics.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

As chairman of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, I would like to pledge to the gentleman or others my cooperation and work with the staff on how to set up the committee. I also commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALES) for his initial leadership in this area. I would suggest to the gentleman from Virginia that you have a small staff and use other Government agencies to help gather information.

Also I would like to suggest that these select committees do not have to run on and on. Even though the Select Committee on Missing Persons was extended for 3 months over the 1 year of the life of the committee, which was needed, I think we can write a comprehensive report on the missing persons by January 3. I see no reason to extend the Select Committee on Missing Persons.

I know the gentleman will look into these matters.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi. I agree with him. The life of the committee will be determined by each succeeding Congress.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SEIBERLING).

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my support to this

resolution and commend the gentleman in the well for his devotion to this cause. I think all America will applaud him for it.

The trouble is that we all felt in our bones that we did not have all the facts as to these terrible events, but only recently have we gotten some concrete evidence to confirm our misgivings. I was privileged to sit on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights earlier this year when we had hearings with respect to the FBI incident where they had a report on Oswald which was suppressed and flushed down the drain.

Unfortunately, the new evidence has been developed piecemeal and as a sort of byproduct of other investigations and oversight hearings. Now for the first time we will have the satisfaction that at least one committee will have the jurisdiction to go into this whole matter and try to answer some of these awful questions that have been continuing concern to the people of our country.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I thank the gentleman.

This committee will engage in no witch hunts. Its purpose is to arrive at the truth and not to blame those who may have erred in the original investigation.

For my part the only conclusion I have reached concerning the murders of President Kennedy and Dr. King is that we do not know the complete truth. Certainly in the case of President Kennedy I am convinced that there was a conspiracy involved.

I do not, however, know the identity of the conspirators or their motives.

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker. I yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing).

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, so that there will be no question about the nonpolitical purposes of this proposed committee, it has been agreed there will be no public hearings held prior to the election in November. Some hearings may be scheduled for later this year, but none of the time will be spent in organizing staff, setting priorities or obtaining the mass of political records for setting the stage for broad and deliberate action by the Select Committee, when as I strongly urge and expect it will be reestablished in the 95th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure we each remember the manner in which we heard of the assassination of President Kennedy and Dr. King. We may forget many of the details in our lives, but we will each remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard about it and our own personal reactions thereto.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go home and face my people unless I can assure them that I have done my utmost to provide them with all the knowledge of what happened to John F. Kennedy, our former President. I want them to know what happened to Dr. King. I want them to know that no one stood in the way of learning the truth. I want to restore credibility in our Government. I want to leave this as my legacy to the 95th

Congress, whose pleasure I have chosen to leave at this time with great reluctance.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gonzalez).

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today—in this eleventh hour of the 94th Congress—the House has finally seen fit to attempt to discharge its responsibility in respect to some of the political assassinations of the last decade.

When I became the first Member of Congress since the Warren Commission report to ask for a congressional investigation of political assassinations on February 19, 1975—at the first available time after committees were organized for this Congress—I was ridiculed in some quarters and no one else was interested in joining in the effort. The U.S. press was, generally speaking, disinterested.

Much to my surprise, as well as everyone else's, the kind of reaction which I initially received quickly began to change as the result of revelations, especially about the John F. Kennedy assassination, which began to appear in print. The showing of the Zapruder film on national television also stimulated great interest.

As the interest began to mount, my good colleague, Congressman Thomas Downing of Virginia, introduced the very same resolution which I had introduced, but left off all other assassinations—or attempted assassinations—except that of President Kennedy.

However, I had originally proposed and continued to propose that the House also undertake a review of the assassinations of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempt on the life of Gov. George Wallace, so, my good colleague and I began to gather cosponsors on our two different versions of my proposal.

In the discussions which I had with my good colleague he argued that all the names of the others, especially that of Dr. King, should be removed from the proposal I had introduced, if we were to get any congressional investigation underway on the John F. Kennedy assassination, or any assassination.

Therefore, it was heartening this last Monday that my good colleague, Thomas Downing, agreed to join me and Congressman Walter Fauntroy in a compromise proposal, House Resolution 1540, which includes Dr. King's assassination, and possibly others, as well as that of President Kennedy.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall, that I was the very first to appeal to you personally, on the floor of this House, for consideration of legislation creating a select committee on assassinations, as we have done today. This first appeal was many months ago when it appeared that there was no likelihood that we would ever get such a proposal out of the House Rules Committee.

Creation of the select committee is long overdue. However, whether creation of such a committee at this time, under

the present circumstances, including the retirement from Congress of my colleague, Congressman Downing, is really appropriate, remains to be seen.

I have only one interest: the truth about why and how these assassinations occurred.

In organizing such an effort, as a select committee on assassinations, we should have only the objective of assessing the effects of these assassinations on the American people, trying to determine why they happened, and how we can prevent such a series of events from happening again.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Anderson).

(Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the gentleman who has preceded me on this resolution was the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing). The gentleman certainly has no political motives whatever in espousing the cause of a reopening of the investigation into the death of Dr. King and John F. Kennedy, because as all of the Members of this committee know, the gentleman from Virginia is not seeking reelection to this body.

Mr. Speaker, very frankly, I was one of those who originally was highly skeptical—totally skeptical. I would say—of the utility of further pursuing this matter. Yet, after listening to the testimony of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) before the Committee on Rules way back in March of this year, I was so impressed with the very patient and persistent effort that the gentleman had made to gather together all of the facts and all of the evidence that certainly pointed to new areas that deserve investigation, that at that time I voted in favor of reporting out this resolution. This was on the 31st of March of this year.

Now, almost 6 months have gone by. 6 months, I might say, of very valuable time that could have been used to pursue this matter.

Fortunately, some of the members of the Committee on Rules, at least in my judgment, changed their position and so it was that I read this week 2 days ago that by a vote of 9 to 4 this resolution was favorably reported.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not take the time to go into the evidence that has been presented to the committee by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing). The gentleman has already made some reference to it in his statement a moment ago; but, for example, some of the people who have urged reconsideration of this matter include the staff attorney for the Commission, David Belin, who in November of last year called for a new investigation, because the Commission at the time it did its work had been totally unaware of CIA attempts on the life of Fidel Castro; yet I read, for example, in the statement of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) and heard the gentleman testify before the Committee on Rules, that Lee Harvey Oswald was questioned by seven FBI of-

ficials for approximately 12 hours and that there are no stenographic transcripts of his interrogation, no tape-recorded record of his questioning was made, that no notes were kept, even by the chief of homicide of the Dallas Police.

Mr. Speaker, those are things certainly that lead me to believe that in view of what we have learned in recent months of CIA involvement in attempted assassination efforts with respect to the Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro, and also some of the revelations with respect to the activities of the FBI have lead me to believe that reasonable men have the right at this point in history to once again make an inquiry into these matters.

I have not spoken as to the need for reinvestigation of the death of Dr. King, although I understand from one of the witnesses before our committee, Mr. FAUNTROY, that there is evidence in this case as well that is deserving of consideration. I think both of these matters are so important that I would urge Members to put aside their doubts and support the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. THONE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. THONE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, no one can deny that there is a considerable percentage of people in America who feel they haven't had the full truth about the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. There are lingering doubts in the minds of many about the participants, motives, and causes of these tragedies.

In my opinion, sinister conspiratorial aspects loom larger and larger.

Questions have also been raised about killings, or attempted murders, of other leading American political leaders in the past 10 to 15 years.

It is always worthwhile to seek the truth. It is always a wise course to try to replace doubts with certainty. It is always a course of wisdom to seek to find answers for important questions.

An investigation of these assassination attempts may help to guide America's conduct of international relations. An investigation may help to provide better protection for our political leaders. Most importantly, an investigation that is thorough, complete, and impartial will do much to ease American minds. The United States is a nation of free people. We require knowledge and information to keep our freedom. As J. Edgar Hoover said, "The truth will make you free."

In the search for truth, I urge adoption of this proposal.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I yield to my colleague from Illinois.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, the statements that have been made today by those advocating the resolution indicate

that the committee's attention will be devoted to the assassinations of former President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. Yet, I am troubled by the phrase in the resolution which states, "and any others the select committee shall determine."

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I would respond to the gentleman from Illinois in this manner: Certainly, all of the testimony before the Committee on Rules—and which led me individually to support as long ago as March of this year the adoption of a resolution to set up a select committee—was based on a desire on the part of the witness to reopen the investigation into the deaths of two men, and two men only, Dr. Martin Luther King and former President John F. Kennedy.

Let me conclude my answer by saying that just as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) pointed out, there have been some very mysterious deaths occur in recent months, and he referred by name to two former members of the Mafia. It is generally believed that they may have had some connection with plots by the CIA on the life of Castro; so that, to me, indicates that this language is merely designed to give the select committee, if it is established, the latitude and the flexibility that it might need to look into the deaths of other individuals who are not really the prime focus of inquiry, but leads with respect to how that matter would in turn perhaps shed some light on the whole mystery surrounding the deaths of former President Kennedy and Dr. King. So, I think it is wholly ancillary to the principal thrust of the investigation, which is to look into the deaths of Dr. King and former President Kennedy.

Mr. YATES. Does the gentleman believe that the work of the committee should be fully devoted to the deaths of those two individuals? And further respecting the deaths, as the gentleman suggested, occurring recently if those deaths are related to the death of former President Kennedy, the authority given by the resolution would permit the committee to go into those deaths as well. I think the authority that is given by that gratuitous phrase, if you please, is so broad that the committee could go into the assassination of President Lincoln, for example, under this authority. It could go into the assassination of President McKinley.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Now, the gentleman is resorting to a familiar device. There is not a shred of evidence before the Committee on Rules to show that they intend to go back and exhume the bones of Abraham Lincoln or James Garfield.

Mr. YATES. Why put this phrase in here then?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I have said to explain to the gentleman that the deaths of some of the other people in recent months have lead the authors of the resolution to think they might have some bearing on the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

Mr. YATES. If they have a bearing on the deaths, would not the authority of

this resolution give Congress the power to go into that investigation?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I suppose one could argue without the phrase "and of any others" that they could.

Mr. YATES. That is right. I thank the gentleman for his concession.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I frankly cannot see the basis for the fears expressed by the gentleman from Illinois that this committee is going to get off on a fishing expedition into every gangland slaying that has occurred over the past 10 years. I do not think that is their intention at all.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SISK).

(Mr. SISK asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SISK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me urge my colleagues, for gosh sakes, if they have any respect, as I am sure they all do, for the dollars of our taxpayers: Let us vote this resolution down. This, to me, is almost unbelievable, that we would be here, approaching October 1, even discussing the issue.

Maybe I should not use this title, because it certainly does not apply to any Member of this body, nor to most Americans, but there are unfortunately, a number of people running around this country who are plain witch hunters, and they have some kind of a melodramatic desire for the morbid. They want to try to create an incident.

If anyone can stand up and tell me one single good that anything that this committee may do would be of any benefit to the American people, to the American Government, to anyone, then for God's sake I wish they would do it.

I thought we put this thing to bed a long time ago, and we did have it stopped for a time.

But it seems to ever raise its head. And, finally, let me say we had an amendment yesterday proposed to eliminate the phrase which has been raised here which opens it up. For example, I understand there is new evidence in connection with the death of President Harding. I do not know whether or not the committee wants to go in and investigate the death of President Harding, and I do not really care. I just hope, as I said, that we vote this resolution down, and particularly at this stage of the year when there is no possibility even, with the admission of possible Members of the committee, that they are going to do anything this year and will depend on the 95th Congress for any achievements that may be developed.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to my colleagues that we have heard all kinds of rumors, and there will continue to be rumors. We had a very distinguished commission 13 years ago that I think did the very best possible job of investigating this. People talk about new facts. We read about new facts concerning a whole variety of things, some of them going back 100 years ago. Facts are facts to the individual stating them. They may or

September 17, 1976

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 10363

may not be facts. They may be truths or half-truths.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that I would urge that this House on this occasion vote down this resolution, and then if the 95th Congress wants to take a look at some new evidence that apparently seems to be floating around, they can do so. Frankly, as a Member of the Committee on Rules, I still have not heard anything up there that would in any way change my strong conviction that it is a total waste of time. Are we going to do that and bring Mr. Castro up here if someone comes up with some so-called facts that he was instrumental in the death of President Kennedy? To me, it is just unbelievable that we spend our time on this kind of situation.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING).

(Mr. DOWNING of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have resolved this question for myself. The Members all know that I do not go in for the sensational or the bizarre. That is not my lifestyle. I asked myself: "Why do you want to do this?" And the answer came back: "The truth."

The American people want to know the truth. I would hope and pray that the committee would resolve that the Warren Commission was right, but I know in my heart it will not.

Let me tell the Members something else about these assassinations. We should take into consideration the political effects of this crime. Let us think of this for a minute: But for the fact that Kennedy was assassinated, Johnson probably would not have been President, and but for the fact that Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, Richard M. Nixon probably would not have been President, and but for the fact that George Wallace was eliminated, Nixon probably would not have been reelected. No one can tell me that an assassination does not have an effect on politics and on our form of government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to vote for this resolution.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Mr. FAUNTROY).

(Mr. FAUNTROY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House Resolution 1540. There are at least three compelling reasons for the House to establish this Select Committee on Assassinations. The first is that the American people want it. The second is that a wealth of new information which was not available to the initial investigators of the Kennedy and King assassinations justifies it. And third, Mr. Speaker, the best vehicle for such an inquiry would be a duly constituted panel of distinguished Members of this House committed to conduct a responsible and searching investigation of these matters.

Let us take a look at the first compelling reason, namely that: The American people today want a thorough, im-

partial and reliable investigation of the rash of political assassinations that have rocked our Nation over the past 13 years. Both nationwide polls and more localized polls of the opinions of the American people indicate that an overwhelming majority of our people are not satisfied that we know the whole truth about several of these assassinations. In fact, a CBS nationwide poll as recently as November of last year found a whopping 46 percent of the American people believing "the shootings of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and even George Wallace were related. The polls found only that 15 percent of the American people believe that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the Kennedy assassination.

When one reflects upon the wealth of new information that has come to light since initial investigators completed their work, one can understand the low level of confidence which the American people have in these dated findings. Not only have a number of books published on the subject of the assassinations revealed new information and raised serious questions that ought to be answered, but the recent findings of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have, in my view, confirmed the need for a reopening of these matters.

Our distinguished colleague from Virginia, Mr. DOWNING, has noted a number of facts that were not available to the Warren Commission in the Kennedy case. The King assassination has never been thoroughly investigated inasmuch as there has never been a trial, even though the confessed assassin has been seeking one for nearly 8 years. I have shared new information with respect to the King assassination with the leadership of the House with the result that they have concurred in our desire to establish the select committee.

Third, Mr. Speaker, a select committee of the House is clearly the best vehicle for investigating this investigation. What the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has documented about the shameful conduct of the FBI with respect to Dr. King is certainly enough to convince all of us that the responsible thing for the Congress to do is to undertake this investigation, resolve any lingering doubts and help restore confidence in our Government.

The American people want it, new information demands it, and the conduct of our traditional investigate agencies require that we establish this select committee. Nothing more is needed; nothing less will suffice.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAUNTROY. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of the gentleman, and I agree that these assassinations certainly needed investigation at the time, but I fail to realize how we can come up now 2 weeks before sine die adjournment with a resolution that provides for the appointment of 12 Members of this Chamber to make an investigation in 2 weeks and clear the air in a matter that the Warren Commission spent months in investigating. I just cannot see it.

I will ask one other question, if I may.

Mr. FAUNTROY. May I answer the first question and then answer the gentleman's second.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Certainly.

Mr. FAUNTROY. It is my considered judgment that the members of the Committee on Rules who voted for this, including the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) whose record is very clear on questions of this nature, have not moved to do this at this time without serious understanding of the urgent need to preserve testimony. I am confident that when we are apprised of the specifics of the new information, we will understand the wisdom of the leadership which is supporting this measure now.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

(Mr. MADDEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Mr. FAUNTROY) for the remarks he just made.

As I previously stated, Mr. Speaker, there have been thousands of letters and requests from organizations and people all over the country pressing for these investigations.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) has been one of the pioneers in bringing about this investigation resolution. His work has not only extended over months, but over years in trying to get this Select Assassination Committee created.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PICKLE).

(Mr. PICKLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MADDEN) for yielding.

I will not take all of that time because I was also going to point out to the House that one of the first voices in the Congress to raise questions was that of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. Speaker, I have doubts about what this committee will find; but I do know that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) has been pursuing this matter for the last several years and probably was the first one to initiate or to insist on further inquiring. I think the House ought to know that perhaps this resolution is before us today because of his persistence and because of his determination that certain testimony ought to be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, most of us are going to reserve our judgment, but I know that the able gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) felt very strongly about uncertainties, and I think that the Members should be reminded of that particular fact.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PICKLE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker once again we will establish a commission or a select committee, and I understand that these people who will serve

on this committee have already been designated, in the event this resolution passes today.

I wonder if this resolution would be here today if the 12 members who will serve on it were not Members of the House of Representatives. If we selected 12 persons from the population to make this investigation, would we still be voting on this bill today? Are we really concerned about this or is this an opportunity for somebody to be out in the limelight again?

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I must say to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MYERS) that I do not know whether the members have been selected. That is a matter for the Speaker, who will make that determination.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. If the gentleman will yield further, at the time this came up I understand that the members had been selected already or designated, at least, even though they have not been appointed.

Again, I doubt that we would be here today taking up this resolution if Members of Congress were not to serve on this very select committee. Regardless of how worthy or meritorious this bill is, can the 12 members to be appointed fulfill all their other legislative responsibilities, all probably will be running for reelection and will be doing some politicking during this period, yet do any kind of job of investigation and make a report before we adjourn? To spend that much money in such a short time is just not reasonable.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. FITTHIAN).

(Mr. FITTHIAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITTHIAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

When I came to this body nearly 2 years ago, I came from a role of a history professor.

I was the person who had seen in the books repeatedly or every so often the statement that we wanted to go back and reinvestigate some assassination.

Mr. Speaker, by training alone, I was opposed to this movement; but in the last 18 months, both from the evidence that has been amassed and the interest that has been exhibited, and from my own investigation and my own reading into this subject, I have been led to believe that this is worthy of our consideration. It is worthy of our consideration because there are too many unanswered questions.

Both of these assassinations and the evidence pertaining to them are now demonstrably incomplete, as has been stated ably by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ANDERSON), that being the case, it is time to try to lay this question to rest and to try to assure the American people, who are, as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MADDEN), the chairman of the Committee on Rules mentioned, uneasy about this whole matter.

Therefore, I would urge the Members of this body to support this resolution.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PATTEN).

(Mr. PATTEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PATTEN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is odd. Yesterday we had the Clean Air Act. Today we have this resolution.

Everybody in America loves moving pictures and they love to read mystery stories. It is the best way to sell a newspaper.

I work on the Appropriations Committee and there are no TV cameras or lights, no reporters. Let us get into the act even if it is a fake.

Mr. WON PAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1540, which calls for the creation of a select committee to investigate the deaths of the late President John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert, Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Gov. George Wallace.

The measure now before this body is similar to one I cosponsored; House Resolution 456, both of which were written by our esteemed colleague Representative HENRY B. GONZALEZ, of Texas.

The need for Congress to undertake a new and thorough investigation of these matters, particularly the Kennedy assassinations, is very real. Recent events have revealed new information which shed light on some very gray areas of the Kennedy assassinations. Information which should give every American pause to question whether the Warren Commission did, in fact, uncover all the sordid facts surrounding these terrible events in our history. Did Cuban President Fidel Castro play a role in the killings as press reports now indicate may be the case? Did the Mafia know about the murders and are the gangland killings of the two Mafia heads related in any way to the Kennedy assassinations?

I, for one, have no idea if these or any of the numerous theories about the assassinations are valid. But the fact remains that many Americans continue to doubt that all the truth has been revealed.

I have great confidence that should the Congress approve of this legislation, the investigation will be conducted in a professional and responsible manner which will reflect credit on the U.S. Congress. What we are looking for is the truth, not a sideshow. But as long as a reasonable doubt remains, I believe that it is the duty of the Congress to investigate these issues and report to the American people its findings.

Congressman GONZALEZ deserves our support in this matter. He has approached this sensitive issue with dignity and appreciation for the complex issues involved. Should the select committee be authorized, I would heartily recommend that Congressman GONZALEZ be chosen as its chairman. He is extremely familiar with the issues and has undoubtedly developed strong connections with many of the groups who have publicly expressed reservations about the assassinations. Congressman GONZALEZ's record in the House is an outstanding one, and I am confident that he would carry out the

duties of the chairman of the select committee to investigate the assassinations with his usual skill.

Mr. ANDERSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1540, a resolution that establishes a House select committee to complete a thorough investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lingering doubt about "what happened" remains with the American people. Uncertainty about the death of great leaders, or anyone cannot be.

Thus, last year I cosponsored a nearly identical resolution (H. Res. 574) introduced by my colleague from Virginia, Mr. DOWNING. Today, I urge every Member to join with me in passing a resolution that, hopefully, will close an old wound.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge a speedy passage today of House Resolution 1540. As Members of the House of Representatives, we have the duty to investigate and prove or disprove to the best of our ability any allegations of impropriety or conspiracy in these assassinations. The American people have the right to know with the greatest certainty possible the circumstances surrounding deaths of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace.

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I am most hopeful that today the House will take a step toward ending the 13 years of doubt that have surrounded the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Public opinion polls have shown us repeatedly that the American people simply do not believe the conclusions of the Warren Commission report. And rather than subsiding, the questions, charges, and doubts grow in scope, magnitude, and intensity with the passage of time. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities concluded that there were serious omissions in the information and evidence provided to the Warren Commission and that another investigation is warranted. I concur with that conclusion and believe the House of Representatives should establish the vehicle to conduct that investigation.

It is clear that the Warren Commission never questioned the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald and never looked into any information that was not directly related to him. In this way they never examined any information that did not fit into this preconceived conclusion, and thus the scope of their investigation was narrow and incomplete.

I do not pretend to know who did, or did not, kill President Kennedy. I do know that too many questions and doubts remain for us not to create a select committee to investigate that assassination. Further, information that has come to light over the last several months regarding the surveillance and harassment of Rev. Martin Luther King, and the inconsistencies surrounding his assassination warrant attention by the House of Representatives as well.

I urge all of my colleagues to consider the public's right to know the truth, and cast an affirmative vote on this resolution.

Mr. BIAGGI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to indicate my full support for this resolution which will establish a new Select Committee on Assassinations. As a cosponsor of this resolution, I consider its passage vital if we are to address the clamorings of millions of Americans to reopen the investigations of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now, almost 13 years later, there are still many serious questions being raised on certain key facts associated with the murder of President Kennedy. The relentless efforts of such persons as Mark Lane in his book "Rush to Judgment" as well as other individuals and groups, have produced new evidence which questions the findings of the Warren Commission. It should be clearly understood that the efforts to create this select committee are in no way designed to be a total denunciation of the Warren Commission. Rather, in light of new and substantial evidence, it is imperative that a new inquiry be undertaken and we are seeking to allow Congress to investigate the assassination for the first time.

Similarly, serious questions have been raised about the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. New and very disturbing theories have surfaced which deserve close examination. This is exactly what the committee would do.

I am pleased that this resolution will vest the new committee with sufficient authority to insure that thorough inquiries are conducted. These two assassinations of major American leaders have had a profound effect on all Americans. We must write the final chapter on these two dark events in American history by permitting all relevant evidence to be aired and considered so that unimpeachable conclusions on these assassinations may be reached.

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1540, to establish a Select Committee on Assassination. Many of us have been shocked in recent times to learn of the extent to which American intelligence and law enforcement agencies have engaged in illegal, improper, and unethical activities. Investigations by both Chambers of Congress have charted a long history of abuses by the CIA, FBI, and other agencies that have included illegal electronic surveillance, drug abuses, political spying, mail openings, efforts to disrupt and discredit citizen protest groups, and assassination plots against foreign leaders.

The recent disclosure of J. Edgar Hoover's now infamous COINTELPRO memos outlines a nationwide program to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities" of organizations and leaders who did not share Mr. Hoover's political philosophy. And yet, I would remind my colleagues, that the investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were dependent upon information gathered under the direction of the very same J. Edgar Hoover.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress had done much to prevent the reoccurrence of the abuses of the past but to stop at this point is to leave our work half done.

Many Americans are demanding to be told the whole truth about the assassinations of some of our greatest leaders. The recent systematic violations of the Constitution, Federal, State, and local laws by the FBI, CIA, and other agencies, necessitates the direct intervention of this honorable body in order to determine if all facts have been brought to light. The American people will expect no less.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. The proponents of this resolution are asking the American taxpayers to pay \$250,000 to study the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of certain named individuals and other unnamed individuals. The proponents of this resolution call for the expenditure of these funds even though thousands of dollars have been previously spent by various local, State, and Federal entities—including adjudicatory bodies—in the investigation of assassinations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, assassinations are a terrible thing and if we could prevent them by writing \$250,000 reports that nobody will read, I would vote for this resolution. But the proponents of this resolution indicate that we just have to have this study. However, I have neither heard nor seen a great clamor from the people demanding this study. If the proponents truly down deep in their hearts want this great treatise called for by this resolution, I respectfully suggest that they reach down deep in their pockets and get out their checkbooks and personally contribute to this undertaking. I have it calculated. If each of the Members would write a check for \$575, that will cover the \$250,000 cost of this endeavor. Since the people do not want this resolution it is only fair that we pay the bill and save the taxpayers some funds. I suspect that there would be a lot less studies undertaken if we were required to pay for them out of our own pockets. And I also suspect, Mr. Speaker, that all of these study commissions would not linger on indefinitely if the Members were required to pay for them year after year.

The SPEAKER. All time has expired.
GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the pending resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution. The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appear to have it.

Mr. ASHBROOK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 280, nays 65, answered "present" 1, not voting 84, as follows:

[Roll No. 748]
YEAS—280

Abdnor	Freeman	Morgan
Addabbo	Frey	Mott
Allen	Gibbons	Murphy, Ill.
Ambro	Gliman	Myers, Pa.
Anderson, Calif.	Ginn	Neacher
Anderson, Ill.	Gonzales	Neal
Andrews, N.C.	Goodling	Nichols
Andrews, N. Dak.	Gradien	Nix
Archer	Grassley	Noles
Armstrong	Gude	Nowak
Ashbrook	Guyer	Oberstar
Aspin	Halley	Ober
AuCoin	Hall, Ill.	O'Brien
Bafalis	Hamilton	O'Hara
Baldus	Hammer	O'Neill
Baucus	Schmidt	Ottlinger
Bauman	Hanley	Pattison, N.Y.
Beard, R.I.	Hanna	Paul
Bedel	Hannaford	Pepper
Bennett	Harkin	Pertinis
Bergland	Harrington	Pettis
Beverly	Harris	Pfever
Biaggi	Hayes, Ind.	Pickle
Bingham	Hechler, W. Va.	Pickles
Blanchard	Heckler, Mass.	Priester
Blouin	Hefner	Preyer
Boggs	Henderson	Price
Boiland	Highower	Fritchard
Bolling	Hillis	Quie
Bonker	Holland	Raisback
Brademas	Holtzman	Regula
Braxton	Horton	Reus
Brinkley	Howard	Rhodes
Brodhead	Hubbard	Richmond
Brooks	Hughes	Rinaldo
Broomfield	Hungate	Roberts
Brown, Calif.	Hyde	Rodino
Brown, Ohio	Ichord	Roe
Broyhill	Jacobs	Rogers
Buchanan	Jeffords	Roncalio
Burgener	Jeanette	Rosen
Burke, Fla.	Johnson, Calif.	Rosenbath
Burke, Mass.	Johnson, Colo.	Roush
Burton, Philad.	Jones, Ala.	Rums
Butler	Jones, N.C.	St. Germain
Carr	Jones, Tenn.	Santini
Cederberg	Jordan	Sarasin
Clausen	Kath	Schauer
Don E.	Kasten	Schulze
Clay	Kastenmeier	Seiberling
Cohen	Kasten	Sharp
Conce	Kemp	Shriver
Conyers	Ker	Slates
Corman	Koch	Smith, Iowa
Cornell	Kreps	Smith, N.Y.
Crane	Kruger	Solar
D'Ambrose	LaFalce	Spallman
Daniel, Del.	Lagomarsino	Spence
Daniel, E. W.	Landrum	Staggers
Daniel, N.J.	Latta	Stanton
Daniels	Leggett	James V.
Daniels	Lehman	Stephens
De la Garza	Levin	Stokes
Delaney	Lloyd, Calif.	Stuckey
DeLoach	Lloyd, Tenn.	Studds
Dellums	Long, La.	Symms
Dingell	Long, Md.	Taylor, Mo.
Dodds	Lundine	Taylor, N.C.
Downey, N.Y.	McCloskey	Thompson
Downing, Va.	McCollister	Thone
Drinan	McDade	Traxler
du Pont	McDonald	Treen
Earl	McFall	Thomson
Edgar	McHugh	Udall
Edwards, Calif.	McKinney	Ullman
Ellberg	Madden	Vander Jagt
Emery	Maguire	Vanik
Evans, Colo.	Mahon	Vigorito
Evans, Ind.	Martin	Walsh
Evans, Tenn.	Mathis	Waxman
Faast	Meicher	Weaver
Fenwick	Mevinaky	Whalen
Findley	Milva	White
Fish	Miller, Calif.	Whitehurst
Fisher	Mills	Whitten
Fithian	Minish	Wilson, C. H.
Florio	Mitchell, Md.	Wilson, Tex.
Flowers	Mitchell, N.Y.	Wyllie
Foley	Moakley	Tates
Forsythe	Moffett	Young, Alaska
Fountain	Mohrman	Young, Fla.
Fraser	Montgomery	Zablocki
	Moore	Zerfetti
	Moorehead, Calif.	
	Moorehead, Pa.	

-And so after all the debates, pro and con, The House Select Committee on Assassinations began its "investigations" into the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Its mandate was to fully investigate and then inform us all of ALL the evidence and information which the Committee had secured. As we shall see, this, in fact WAS done at the outset while Richard A. Sprague was the chief counsel. But, as you will read in much more detail later on, the CIA owned news-media forced his resignation, thereby allowing G. Robert Blakey to "run the show", as it were. In, perhaps, the most despicable fashion, he then proceeded to LIMIT all phases of both investigations, fired the several who took issue with him on this aspect, such as chief investigators Donovan Gay and Robert Lehner soon after becoming chief counsel. Blakey, almost instantly after being named chief counsel issued the "Non-Disclosure Agreement", a CIA/FBI implemented document undoubtedly, forcing EVERYONE who was employed in ANY capacity on the HSCA to sign it, thereby prohibiting them from EVER divulging, or revealing ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING they may have learned while in the Committee's employ! During this period of time, I guested on many radio and TV shows, including my own self-produced and hosted, hourly, weekly Manhattan Cable-TV shows entitled, "Assassination U.S.A.", informing as many as I could reach of the insidious, nefarious cover-up practices which were being employed by Blakey & Company. These shows resulted in, at my request, many thousands of letters being sent to both the Committee's chairman, Congressman Louis Stokes, and also to Blakey, himself, demanding that, also at my request, Blakey be fired immediately! A few of the letters which Blakey sent to the people, in answer to my charges against him, will be found in chapter two. In addition, I repeatedly spoke to Committee members such as Yvonne Burke, Chairman Stokes and to Blakey himself, charging him with covering up evidence, especially Jim Garrison's evidence of direct CIA involvement in the JFK murder. Blakey's consistent reply, even to these charges against him were, "No comment on substance or procedure of the investigation."!! No one on the Committee believed me then. I sometimes wonder if they now think of my warnings and perhaps wish they had listened to me and done something about it at the time(??) So, even with the, Blakey ordered, "BLANKET OF SILENCE" in effect, I was provided with HSCA documents, Interim Reports, etc, which comprise a portion of chapter two.. "The Investigation". It begins on the next page.

2. The Investigation

STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE THOMAS N. DOWNING
CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1976

GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TODAY. I HAVE THE GREAT PLEASURE OF INTRODUCING TO YOU MR. RICHARD SPRAGUE, WHO TODAY HAS BECOME ACTING COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS. MR. SPRAGUE'S APPOINTMENT IS "ACTING" ONLY UNTIL THE SELECT COMMITTEE MEETS NOVEMBER 15TH, AT WHICH TIME I FULLY EXPECT HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BECOME PERMANENT.

MR. SPRAGUE COMES TO US FROM PRIVATE PRACTICE IN PHILADELPHIA. HE HAD HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE PROSECUTING CRIMINAL CASES, AND IN PARTICULAR SERVED AS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THE YABLONSKI MURDERS. HE LATER SERVED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FEDERAL PROSECUTION OF W.A. "TONY" BOYLE.

I AM MOST GRATIFIED THAT MR. SPRAGUE HAS ACCEPTED THIS POSITION ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE. WITH HIS HELP, WE WILL, AS OUR MANDATE REQUIRES, CONDUCT A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE TRUTH AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR PRESIDENT AND TO ONE OF THEIR MOST PROMINENT NATIONAL FIGURES.

REPORT
TOGETHER WITH
ADDITIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL
VIEWS
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



DECEMBER 31, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1976

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
Washington, D.C., December 31, 1976.

Hon. EDMUND L. HENSHAW, Jr.,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW: On behalf of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and pursuant to the mandate of House Resolution 1540, I am transmitting herewith to the House of Representatives the report of the committee representing the results of the committee's investigation and study since its inception on September 17, 1976. The report includes the recommendations of the committee with respect to continued investigation by the House of Representatives of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like, at this time, to express the deep appreciation of the committee to the committee staff for its excellent work on this phase of the Select Committee's investigation.

I note, on my retirement from the House of Representatives, the fine start which has been made on this investigation, for whose initiation I have worked over the past years. It is my sincere hope that the House will see fit to proceed with the investigation in the same thorough and professional manner in which it has begun.

Sincerely,

THOMAS N. DOWNING,
Chairman.

Enclosure: Report.

94TH CONGRESS 2d Session	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	REPORT No. 94-1781
-----------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------

**RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**

DECEMBER 31, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DOWNING, from the Select Committee on Assassinations
submitted the following

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

Twelve years have passed since the Warren Commission released its report finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Eight years have passed since Judge W. Preston Battle of the Shelby County, Tenn., Criminal Court accepted James Earl Ray's plea of guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The passage of time has not healed the national trauma caused by these assassinations. In the ensuing years, old doubts have remained and new disturbing questions have been raised as additional evidence has come to light.

The following are just a few examples of these new issues:

(1) Did the Central Intelligence Agency deliberately avoid furnishing critical information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation which would have resulted in the surveillance of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy? If so, why?

(2) Was critical evidence withheld from the Warren Commission? If so, why?

The U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations, in a report released April 23, 1976, concluded that the performance of U.S. intelligence agencies was defective both with respect to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy as well as the reporting to the Warren Commission. That report states in part:

In the days following the assassination of President Kennedy, nothing was more important to this country than to determine the facts of his death; no one single event has shaken the country more. Yet the evidence the Committee has developed suggests that, for different reasons, both the CIA and the FBI failed in, or avoided carrying out, certain of their responsibilities in this matter.

The Committee emphasizes that it has not uncovered any evidence sufficient to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. The Committee, has, however, developed evidence which impeaches the process by which the intelligence agencies arrived at their own conclusions about the assassination, and by which they provided information to the Warren Commission. *This evidence indicates that the investigation of the assassination was deficient and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided the Warren Commission or those individuals within the FBI and CIA, as well as other agencies of Government who were charged with investigating the assassination. (Emphasis supplied.)*

(3) There are reports of intensive surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King by domestic intelligence agencies, including the FBI. Who and where were these agents at the time of Dr. King's assassination? Do they have any evidence concerning the assassination or any plans to commit it? Was this surveillance deliberately curtailed prior to the assassination? And, if so, why?

(4) There are reports that there were unusual transfers of personnel by the Memphis Fire and Police Departments on April 3 and April 4, 1968, which may or may not have affected the security of Dr. King. If so, why were these transfers made and at whose direction?

Over the years repeated disclosures of agency misconduct, foreign assassination attempts, concealed information, destruction of evidence and possible deliberate misinformation have fostered among our citizens an ensuing lack of confidence in Government agencies.

As a result, there has been a growing sense of national concern about the adequacy and integrity of the original investigations. The history of these assassinations has demonstrated that the passage of more time will only increase that concern, and only a thorough and definitive inquiry at this time will resolve the growing doubts.

On September 17, 1976, the House of Representatives rose to this challenge. It created the Select Committee on Assassinations (H. Res. 1540) with the mandate to conduct a "full and complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the Select Committee shall determine."

The members of the Select Committee recognized the need to resolve certain preliminary matters in the 3 months remaining before the close of the 94th Congress. With a realistic appraisal of the task in mind, staffing and budget levels were determined. Threshold investigative inquiries were begun. With the advent of the new Congress the committee is now prepared to proceed with the investigation.

The committee undertook its legislative mandate with the recognition of its responsibility to the American public. The purpose of this mandate is to investigate and provide the facts relating to both assassinations and to do so in a manner which will be credible, professional, ethical and will reflect well on the integrity of Congress.

Pursuant to this mandate, the committee will make recommendations regarding the adequacy of existing laws relating to the assassination of the President of the United States, conspiracy, deprivation of civil rights, and the investigatory authority and capability of agencies and departments of the United States government.

The committee has received widespread support for this legislative investigation. An assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, citing recent disclosures of documents which were withheld from the Warren Commission, strongly urged the reopening to the investigation. He stressed that "the conduct of the Commission and of the agencies upon which it relied should be carefully examined and any new information be fully pursued."

The important questions, he said, are "not only how and why President Kennedy was assassinated, but how such events can be effectively investigated." He was joined by another assistant counsel to the Warren Commission who has endorsed "a full and thorough investigation of both assassinations."

In the case of the King assassination, the committee was provided with the results of a 1975 investigation conducted by the Atlanta, Ga., Bureau of Police Services. The report states in part: " * * * even a cursory examination of certain information presented, to us elicits some very interesting series of coincidences which would appear to merit investigation by appropriate agencies." The report urges that a new investigation be undertaken in order to reach "a more definitive position on the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

II. THE COMMITTEE'S INITIAL ACTIONS

The committee's first task was the selection and appointment of a chief counsel and director.

The committee obtained the services of Richard A. Sprague. Mr. Sprague served as First Assistant District Attorney of Philadelphia, Pa., from June 1966, until December 1974. He has represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as prosecuting attorney in more than 10,000 criminal trials. Serving as Special Prosecutor for Washington County, Pa., he was responsible for the investigation and subsequent prosecution of the Yablonski murder cases. As Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, he was responsible for the conviction of W. A. "Tony" Boyle, the deposed president of the United Mine Workers.

The committee considered the necessity of moving expeditiously on both investigations. It felt that new evidence pertaining to either the Kennedy or King assassination should be pursued immediately, that further delay would be unwarranted.

Thus, the committee decided to pursue each investigation simultaneously. It organized itself into two subcommittees: one, chaired by Walter E. Fauntroy to direct the King investigation; the other, chaired by Richardson Preyer to pursue the Kennedy probe. All members of the Full Committee will be active in both investigations.

The committee agreed upon the need for a staff of 170. This figure provides for two investigative teams of approximately 15 attorneys and 25 investigators each. It is the intention of the committee to recruit the best talent within this Nation. The committee believes it can attract dedicated professionals in the field of criminal investigation with broad experience and ability, who will view this call as a professional challenge as well as an opportunity for public service. Substantial progress has been made in this area.

Finally, the committee decided unanimously not to conduct the investigations under deadlines. One reason for this is to avoid a situation where an agency, individual or group might engage in delaying tactics in an attempt to outlast the committee.

The Warren Commission, which was under intense pressure to resolve the question of responsibility for the Kennedy assassination quickly, produced its final report within 10 months. That Commission did not have an independent investigative staff and conducted its proceedings in closed hearings. These factors, which may or may not have influenced the outcome of the Commission's investigation, have nevertheless contributed to the increasing challenges to that Commission's conclusions.

With the passage of time since the original investigations, there is no longer the pressure to arrive at quick conclusions. The Select Committee, with the advantage of hindsight, with independent investigators, and without artificial deadlines, will conduct the full, dispassionate, and comprehensive investigation that is necessary.

To the extent that it does not impede or impair the integrity of the investigation, the committee intends to hold open hearings. These sessions will be held as the investigations lead to verifiable conclusions, which either prove or disprove prior findings or allegations. In observing the various witnesses and being able to observe their demeanor and judge their credibility, the American public will have a greater basis for confidence in ultimate conclusions. These sessions will also enable the public to observe the investigation as it unfolds.

III. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSES

In the 3 months since its establishment the Select Committee has initiated preliminary investigations into new and previously unpursued leads in both assassinations. While we cannot yet verify the results of our preliminary investigations, we can provide two examples which are representative of the investigative activity that the committee has undertaken.

On November 26, 1976, committee staff questioned extensively an ex-CIA agent regarding his personal knowledge of conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and personnel within the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City.

As a result of the initial questioning, members of the Kennedy Subcommittee held an executive session on November 27. Based on information obtained during the hearing, staff members were dispatched to Mexico where they located and interviewed new witnesses. These witnesses had never been sought out before by any investigative body, notwithstanding the fact that they had important information concerning statements by Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico within 60 days of the assassination of President Kennedy.

With respect to the assassination of Dr. King, committee counsel obtained relevant information from a witness who had never been interviewed before by any investigative agency. This witness has stated that James Earl Ray related to him the fact that after Ray fled to Europe, Ray contacted another person from whom he received further instructions to aid in his continuing flight.

In other areas of inquiry, committee staff has interviewed persons with new relevant information who had never been contacted by any investigative agency. The committee intends to continue to pursue such information.

In addition to pursuing other new investigative leads, the committee has been conducting an intensive analysis of the evidence available in both assassinations in order to define and determine the nature and scope of the inquiry.

With respect to the Kennedy investigation, the chief counsel presented the committee with a list of hundreds of questions which must be resolved. The committee also has identified several hundred witnesses who must be interviewed.

The committee has taken positive steps to insure that it will preserve all relevant materials and information for its investigation.

issued several subpoenas duces tecum to insure evidence will be made available. The committee has been informed that the Central Intelligence Agency alone is in possession of more than 60 cartons of materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to that assassination.

With respect to the assassination of Dr. King, the committee's initial examination of the events and circumstances during the period of James Earl Ray's escape from prison in Missouri in 1967 until his capture and subsequent extradition from England in 1968 gave rise to hundreds of questions. The committee has completed a detailed analysis of the stipulations of fact contained in the guilty plea of Ray in March 1969. The committee noted that during the course of the plea proceedings, Ray rose to advise the court that he did not concur with statements made by both the State prosecutor and his own attorney, that there had not been a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King.

The committee does not mean to imply that there was or was not a conspiracy. It merely indicates that this is one of the areas which requires further investigation, especially in view of the failure to obtain a full statement of involvement from Ray by the Tennessee authorities.

Two staff members of the Select Committee traveled to Memphis, Tenn., and compiled a 76-page index of materials contained in only one of the evidentiary files. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised committee staff that it has more than 80 volumes of materials on the assassination and subsequent investigation into that assassination.

To insure the preservation of certain evidence and documents the Select Committee voted and issued a total of 12 subpoenas duces tecum related to evidence in the assassination of Dr. King.

The Select Committee is cognizant of the significant accomplishments of other independent investigations by the Congress. A quantum of evidence relevant to our investigations has been accumulated by various committees and select committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate. To date, contacts by committee staff have demonstrated a willingness on the part of both Houses of Congress, their Members and various committees to cooperate in making those materials available to this committee.

On the basis of these numerous areas of inquiry and the necessity to preserve evidence already under subpoena, the Select Committee unanimously recommends to the 95th Congress that the Select Committee on Assassinations be immediately reestablished to continue the investigation.

IV. STAFF AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

The committee wishes to emphasize that the unprecedented nature of the task identified in House Resolution 1540 makes past methods of determining the Select Committee's budget inappropriate.

The committee feels strongly that the integrity of this investigation is contingent upon the independence of our investigative efforts. The executive branch agencies, which were utilized in the past, are the very agencies whose previous performance may be the subject of a part of this investigation. The committee, therefore, cannot employ the services of the executive branch agencies. Both the size of the staff and the budget requirements are predicated on the

The committee submits the following comparative analysis of budget and staffing levels of certain previous investigations as a standard by which our recommendations may be measured.

Warren Commission

Staff: 83.

Duration: 10 months.

The Warren Commission did not possess an independent investigative staff. For investigative purposes, they relied on the Federal intelligence agencies. We have been able to amass the following figures, indicating the level of support provided to the Warren Commission by each agency.

FBI: Provided 150 full-time agents who in turn conducted 25,000 interviews and submitted 2,300 reports totaling 25,400 pages. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

CIA: Provided 12 full-time and part-time professionals. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

Secret Service: Provided over 60 full-time professionals who conducted 1,550 interviews and submitted 800 reports totaling 4,600 pages. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

Justice Department: Provided at least 4 full-time professionals.

State Department: Provided certain professional support.

IRS: Estimates that between their Internal Security Inspection Service and their Intelligence Division, they provided 6 staff-years of support.

FBI Investigation Re: Patty Hearst

The only figures available for this investigation are for the first 3-month period. During this initial 90-day span, the FBI spent \$2,600,000. Figures for the number of staff employed are also unavailable.

New York State Special Nursing Home Investigation

This investigation of abuse of the medicaid program by nursing homes has a total staff of 421. The staff includes 65 lawyers, 156 auditors, 100 investigators, and 100 support personnel. Its present yearly budget is \$6,000,000. In addition it utilizes 40 sitting grand juries, the cost of which is not included in the \$6,000,000.

The committee feels that the staff and budget requirements it has identified at the end of this report are at minimal levels necessary to conduct comprehensive and independent investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee and, indeed, the 94th Congress by the passage of House Resolution 1540 recognized that there are many lingering doubts as to the comprehensiveness and credibility of prior investigations into each of these assassinations. The questions which arise from even a preliminary analysis and investigation are legion. Thus, the Select Committee unanimously and unequivocally recommends:

(1) That the House of Representatives immediately move to continue the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of President John F. Kennedy and the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(2) That the House immediately re-establish the Select Committee to insure that evidence which is currently under subpoena will remain intact and under the continuing control of the House and to insure that there is no delay in the ongoing investigations.

(3) That the House approve the budget as set forth herein.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HENRY B. GONZALEZ

I completely support the recommendation of the committee, urge that the 95th Congress immediately reestablish it, and that a budget be approved in the full amount requested.

If ever a legislative effort began with less promise, it was the work of this Select Committee. The committee began its work in the waning days of the 94th Congress, had no staff, no offices, no time to organize properly, and no time to prepare or carry out the study it was commissioned to do. The committee has, however, accomplished more than anyone could have thought possible.

First, the committee has secured the services of an outstanding chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague; he is one of the most effective and respected investigators in the country today. The committee has also been able to hire a team of exceptionally able investigators, researchers, and attorneys. There is absolutely no doubt that Mr. Sprague and his Staff can conduct a completely independent, dispassionate, objective, and thoroughly professional study, given time and adequate support.

In the very short time available, the committee has obtained a substantial amount of information and evidence, and placed these under its control. Researchers and investigators have compiled, and indexed an immense amount of material, initiated some investigations, and most important, prepared the ground for the sustained effort ahead.

Second, the committee has defined its job and has a clear idea of how it is to be accomplished.

The committee does not intend to prove or disprove any theory concerning the assassinations it will study. Instead, the committee will conduct a completely new, independent study. It will begin with the events, take the evidence available, verify that evidence, and reach reasonable conclusions based on the available evidence: no more, no less.

I recognize that an approach of this kind will entail a substantial amount of money, and will require a large number of people; moreover, a study of this kind will take time, and cannot be subject to any deadlines. To have any meaning, the investigation must rely on unimpeachable integrity. To do less than a completely thorough job would be to accomplish nothing at all.

The committee is unanimous in its conclusion that it must be able to rely completely on its own resources. We know that neither the FBI nor CIA cooperated fully with the Warren Commission; and we know that the FBI Director in 1968 had passionate feelings against Dr. Martin Luther King—feelings that might well have been reflected in less than objective work by his subordinates. The decision of the committee to rely on its own staff rather than Executive agencies does not reflect on the integrity or efficiency of those agencies; but we are determined that this be a completely independent study, not in any way affected by the interests of any agency or group.

Investigations of any kind are expensive. Few people, perhaps few of my colleagues, realize how costly even a simple investigation can be. The scope of this study, and the fact that evidence and witnesses are scattered far and wide, the complexity of carrying out two major homicide investigations at once, will make this a very expensive effort. But I am satisfied that the study must be independent, must be thorough, and that every finding must be as thoroughly verified as humanely possible, or the entire effort will be meaningless.

Third, the committee has demonstrated its competence. In the very short amount of time it has had available, the committee has accomplished miracles of organization, defined its work, and begun an extremely complex set of investigations. It is difficult to imagine how it could have accomplished more than it has, especially under the very adverse conditions it has been forced to operate under.

I believe the committee has demonstrated that it has a real task to accomplish. If it is permitted to proceed, the committee can settle hundreds of questions about the murder of President Kennedy and that of Dr. King. Beyond that, the committee can shed light on the larger issue of political murder and violence. We should not forget that President Ford had his own narrow escapes; no Member of the House should forget that the Capitol Building was bombed; and no Member of the House should forget that we live and work under increasingly tight security measures.

It is necessary today to have a vast police force in and around the Capitol. It is necessary to have television monitors on every door. It is necessary to have parcels X-rayed.

Every airline passenger must be subjected to an electronic search for metal, and baggage carried aboard airplanes, and even into boarding areas, must be X-rayed.

Visitors to the Supreme Court must be cleared.

New gates and increasingly sophisticated surveillance devices surround and protect the White House. A whole new police force is employed to protect Embassies.

All of this reflects an age of political violence; all of it has come about since 1963. All of it shows that we have not learned the answer to the crucial question: Why?

That, as I see it, is the ultimate task of the Select Committee—to find out not just what happened, but why.

If we can answer that question, it may be possible to end political violence, and begin taking down the security measures that repress all of us, and represent a genuine threat to free government. Political violence is not inevitable, and it is not inexplicable. The Select Committee may, and I hope will, shed light on why these events took place, and why they shadow all our lives, even today—and how we can begin to end political violence and the omnipresent threat of it, which is, in fact, a threat to free government itself.

HENRY B. GONZALEZ.

SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS OF CONGRESSPERSONS LOUIS STOKES, WALTER E. FAUNTROY, YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, AND HAROLD E. FORD

The purpose of these supplemental views is to strongly emphasize our concurrence in the recommendation contained in the committee's report. In our opinion, the House of Representatives took a giant step toward restoring the faith of the American people in their Government when, in the 94th Congress, it passed House Resolution 1540 by a majority vote of 280 to 65 and established the Select Committee on Assassinations. Just this past week, the latest Gallup Poll told us that 80 percent of the American people do not believe that either Lee Harvey Oswald or James Earl Ray acted alone in the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They feel that their Government has not told them all that it knows or that it is in position to find out about the brutal assassinations of two of the most important leaders of the Post World War II era.

The following article appeared in the Washington Post on December 20, 1976, and read as follows:

As the House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its investigations, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe that others besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

In the latest survey, just completed, 80 percent think others were involved in the assassination, while only 11 percent think Oswald acted alone. Nine percent do not express an opinion. Persons with a college background, while overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy was involved, are less inclined to hold this view than are persons with less than a college background.

Approximately one-half of the survey respondents who believe others were involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, however, Cuba or Premier Fidel Castro were mentioned most often. Other responses frequently given are "the Mafia," "Communists," and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The same survey also shows that few Americans believe James Earl Ray acted on his own in the assassination of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Only 18 percent hold this view, while 60 percent think others were involved and 13 percent do not express an opinion.

An investigation into the assassinations of Kennedy and King was recently begun by the newly established House Select Committee on Assassinations. The sixth to be conducted on a large scale by Government officials since Kennedy was assassinated.

Thus, in the case of the death of President Kennedy, in spite of the Warren Commission investigation and the investigations by other Federal agencies and the U.S. Congress, the final reports to the American people have lacked the thoroughness to allay their suspicions that a conspiracy existed which has not yet been uncovered. In the case of James Earl Ray and the King murder, the same general suspicions exist. The threshold inquiries made into these two deaths by our present committee do not provide the answers to these rumors, theories, and suspicions. If these fears, theories, suspicions, and rumors are to be put to rest and if the confidence of the American people is to be restored in the investigative agencies of their Government, a thorough, competent and objective investigation into each of these deaths is an absolute necessity.

This committee has proceeded in that vein. The committee has selected Mr. Richard Sprague, a prominent prosecuting attorney as chief counsel and director of its staff. He is in the process of establishing a staff of attorneys, investigators, and administrative personnel who are capable of exhibiting the highest degree of competence and professionalism in the onerous task of investigating two murders. The Warren Commission was able to avail itself of the investigative personnel of numerous agencies such as the FBI, CIA, the Secret Service, the Justice Department, the State Department, and the Internal Revenue Service.

The integrity of the results of the investigation by the Select Committee on Assassinations will be predicated upon a thorough, objective, fair, and impartial investigation by professional personnel, who will be independent and will be free from the taint of "investigating themselves." It is imperative, therefore, that these minimum staff and budget recommendations which are being requested be granted by the 95th Congress. If in the final analysis we have been able to help restore the faith and confidence of the American people in their Government, this Congress will have justified the costs and will have endeared itself to the people whom we serve.

**LOUIS STOKES.
WALTER E. FAUNTROY.
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE.
HAROLD E. FORD.**

SUPPLEMENTARY VIEWS OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES THONE

I am in basic agreement with the Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations to the 94th Congress. I do, however, wish to make the following observations.

Unless this Select Committee maintains complete credibility with the American public, its efforts will be in vain. Anything that subtracts from the faith and confidence that the people of the United States have in this committee will greatly diminish the value of its final report.

Therefore, I have been deeply concerned by the tendency of a majority on the committee to conduct far too many meetings in executive session. I grant there will be some matters coming before the committee that should be heard in executive sessions. Examples of such matters are testimony that would endanger the national security and, in special investigative hearings, such testimony or evidence that would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate an individual who might be innocent. By and large, however, we can only serve the public well through conducting our sessions after adequate notice and in public.

At the December 17, 1976, meeting of the committee, a motion which I introduced was adopted unanimously by those present. It specifically provides in the reconstruction resolution of this committee for the 95th Congress that the committee, at its first meeting in 1977, must adopt rules for its conduct and that those rules must be in accordance with House of Representatives rules.

Rule XI provides that every committee of the House shall adopt written rules governing its procedure, and Rule XI 2(g)(1) provides that "Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of each standing committee or subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by rollcall vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public." Other meeting rules cover proper notice, specified record keeping and some very limited exceptions to open sessions. We can and must follow both the letter and spirit of these rules.

Yes, by all means this Select Committee on Assassinations must operate scrupulously and diligently within the rules of the House. Furthermore, we must strive, within the rules, to be open and accessible to the public and their representatives, the news media. For this committee, credibility is everything. And credibility will best be served, as usual, by conducting public business in public.

CHARLES THONE

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER J. DODD

"Independence, thoroughness, and openness" must be the guiding principles of these new investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. by our House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In endorsing this report, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on these themes, and to underscore their importance to the ultimate success or failure of our efforts. I also want to share my personal views on these inquiries, as the committee begins this ambitious undertaking.

As an early co-sponsor of congressional resolutions calling for this Select Committee, I have long felt that there remain many unanswered questions surrounding these assassinations—especially questions about the roles of the Federal agencies charged with investigating these terrible crimes.

The specific questions highlighted in this report as to the conduct of the Central Intelligence Agency, and its apparent knowledge of some of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico before the Kennedy assassination, are examples of just such continuing concerns.

Another example underscored in this document is the question of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's reported surveillance of Dr. King, and whether FBI agents were in Memphis and near the civil rights leader at the time of his death.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights, on which I serve and which has oversight responsibility for the FBI, found it necessary last year to hold hearings about that agency's activities before and after President Kennedy's assassination. After taking part in those hearings, I can say our subcommittee raised more new questions about the FBI and the assassination than we received answers to old ones.

Since then, other pressing legislative responsibilities—such as FBI surveillance guidelines and bankruptcy law reforms—prevented our Judiciary Subcommittee from pursuing these new questions, and the unanswered old ones, as fully as would have been desired.

The allegations of possible conspiracies, and of the possible withholding of evidence, are more of the many additional questions about these assassinations which should be laid to rest once and for all, so that these tragic chapters in American history can at last be closed.

I think this new Select Committee represents a unique opportunity for Congress and the American people to finally resolve the issues still surrounding these murders, and I would hope the committee will be able to provide the answers to all these continuing questions.

However, it must be pointed out that this committee could, after its lengthy, exhaustive inquiries, still reach the same conclusions about these assassinations that other investigating bodies have before us. Or this committee might arrive at far different conclusions.

The American people have a right to know the full stories behind these assassinations. They have a right to know the motives and reasons for them, how these deeds were accomplished, and who truly was responsible for them.

This Committee, then, has a great responsibility to fulfill, and the ways it accomplishes this task are of the utmost importance. It is here where "Independence, thoroughness, and openness" count the most.

"Independence"—As mentioned before in these views and in the body of this report, major criticisms of past investigations of these assassinations focus heavily on the activities of the Federal justice and intelligence agencies charged with conducting the initial criminal inquiries.

In light of the fact that these Federal agencies could be the subject of part of our investigation, it would be wholly inappropriate to employ their services as has been done in past assassination studies. Such reliance on these agencies would prejudice the necessary impartiality and credibility of our inquiries.

Therefore, it is crucial to the success of this committee that it retain an experienced, professional investigative and legal staff completely independent from these Federal Government agencies. This great need for an independent staff is the primary reason why the proposed committee budget totals what it does.

"Thoroughness"—I am pleased that the members of this committee, and its staff, are committed to pursuing every possible avenue of investigation and every conceivable theory and lead about these assassinations.

This determination to find definitive answers, if they exist, to all the questions surrounding the assassinations is significant, because the committee's work must withstand the tests of time which other investigations apparently have failed to pass. In 10, 20, 30, or 100 years after the end of our inquiries, the American people should not have to face the doubts about these crimes which exist today.

Our committee must go about its deliberations in the most considered and careful manner possible—eschewing making judgments and conclusions until all the evidence is gathered and evaluated. It is essential that the committee and staff approach these inquiries with completely open minds, so as to avoid possible charges from any quarter that we are being less than objective.

Central to the thoroughness of our investigations will be the necessity to obtain confidential, sensitive, or classified material from Federal agencies. In this regard, I believe the committee should insist on full and total disclosure of all relevant documents in raw, rather than edited or excised, form.

The committee should have the unlimited opportunity to make an independent analysis of these documents, and it should not accept any pre-selection or screening of information by any agency. Acceptance of edited or screened information could jeopardize the independence of the committee's investigations and could raise the possibilities of pertinent information being withheld by the agencies.

To obtain the necessary raw information and documents, the Select Committee should avoid the past experiences of other congressional bodies which made "treaties" with Federal agencies about access to information.

The requirements of a thorough, independent investigation must not be compromised away through "treaties," and the committee must be willing to employ all appropriate means, including contempt of Congress citations, to obtain needed information. The committee furthermore must be willing to vigorously pursue subpoenas and contempt citations to the fullest legal extent possible in its efforts to secure relevant information.

In insisting on total disclosure of relevant agency information relating to the assassinations, the committee must recognize a paramount responsibility to ensure the safekeeping and confidentiality of such materials through whatever elaborate security measures and personnel clearance procedures are necessary. The act of "leaking" any such materials should face the most severe penalties, also.

Lastly in the area of "thoroughness," I would caution the American people to also avoid reaching premature conclusions about the nature, progress and results of the committee's examinations.

It would be misleading for the public to view committee deliberations and hearings about specific allegations, observations, theories, et cetera regarding the assassinations as official endorsements of the validity of these pieces of information.

Until any interim or final committee reports set forth conclusive findings from the investigations, any deliberations and hearings, and their contents, should be viewed as part of the overall process by which we are attempting to determine the truthfulness or falsity of all this information.

"Openness"—Clearly, the question whether to hold meetings and hearings in public or in closed session is one of the most difficult with which the committee must deal. The obligation has, as an arm of a public institution, Congress, to do its business in public must be balanced by the need to protect the confidentiality of certain sensitive information.

I believe that a meeting or a hearing of our committee should be closed only when it has been demonstrated that an executive session is necessary to:

- (1) protect the constitutional rights and safety of witnesses;
- (2) avoid jeopardizing the ongoing investigations, such as by risking loss of potential evidence; and,
- (3) safeguard national defense information.

Any decision to close a meeting or hearing should be made by a rollcall, rather than a voice, vote.

During the course of the committee's investigations, as plateaus are reached where significant evidence has been verified, allowing various conclusions to be drawn, then it would seem proper for the committee to hold open sessions, or to issue interim reports, to keep the public informed of its work.

This committee has an obligation to conduct as much of its business as possible in open sessions, where the American people can follow our investigations and judge for themselves how well or poorly we are discharging our responsibilities. Such openness, I submit, is essential to establishing the credibility of our committee and of the results of its investigations.

The American people should have the opportunity to observe how the members of this committee question witnesses. The public should

be afforded as many insights as possible into the actual workings of the investigations, because such participation will mean that our final conclusions will be more credible to all Americans.

During floor debate on the House resolution establishing the committee, a major argument in its favor was that, unlike past investigations, we would allow the people to oversee our deliberations. Such openness, it was argued, would help to quell public mistrust of Congress and of our governing process, in general. This argument remains valid today.

Our committee might finally conclude that past investigations of the Kennedy and King assassinations were correct in their findings, thus rejecting the many alternative theories now circulated. Or we might show some of these theories to be correct.

What is as important here as any specific conclusion we might reach, is that we allow a reasonable, open process to work, and that we demonstrate to the people that we are giving each and every theory thorough scrutiny before accepting or rejecting it. In this way, no one in the future, will be able to challenge the committee's integrity and responsibility, as past investigations have been challenged.

To further demonstrate the committee's commitment to conducting an open inquiry, and to allow discussion in the near future of the best way to strike a balance between our public obligation and the need to maintain a certain level of confidentiality, I again would urge the committee to draft a comprehensive policy statement or set of rules dealing with these issues. Policy or committee rules regarding the handling of sensitive documents, and statements to the press by individual members, also should be proposed for discussion. Such rules or policies should be debated and voted on by the committee at an open session early next year.

In summary, I feel that the Select Committee has made a productive beginning, and by this report, has demonstrated that it should be reconstituted as quickly as possible in the 95th Congress to allow the investigations to proceed without a loss of continuity or momentum. I urge all my colleagues in Congress to support such a reestablishment of the committee.

Furthermore, I believe that only through independence, thoroughness, and openness will the committee earn and continue to receive the full support of the American people to pursue these deliberations along whatever paths the investigations might lead, including the firm steps needed to enforce subpoenas and contempt of Congress citations.

And it will be only by following these guiding principles that the committee, and its work, will be acceptable to the American people as providing proper answers to the disturbing questions which still surround the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD.

January 4, 1977

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD-HOUSE

H 24

**** CREATING SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS**

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 9

Resolved, That, effective January 3, 1977, there is hereby created a Select Committee on Assassinations to be composed of twelve Members and Delegates of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as Chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Select Committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The Select Committee or a Subcommittee thereof is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death of President John F. Kennedy and the assassination, murder, homicide and death of Martin Luther King, Jr. and of any other persons the Select Committee shall determine in order to ascertain whether the existing laws of the United States, including but not limited to laws relating to the safety and protection of the President of the United States, assassinations of the President of the United States, deprivation of civil rights, and conspiracies related thereto, as well as the investigatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments of the United States Government, are adequate, either in their provisions or in the manner of their enforcement; and shall make recommendations to the House, if the Select Committee deems it appropriate, for the amendment of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation.

For the purpose of carrying out this reso-

lution the Select Committee or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the Select Committee to hold hearings is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, or in any other country, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary; to take testimony on oath anywhere within the United States or in any other country and to authorize designated counsel for the Select Committee to obtain statements from any witness who is placed under oath by an authority who is authorized to administer oaths in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States or of any State; except that neither the Select Committee nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is reading a measure for amendment under the five minute rule unless special leave to sit shall have been obtained from the House. The Chairman of the Select Committee may establish such subcommittees of the Select Committee as he considers appropriate. One-third of the Members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business as permitted by the rules of the House, except that the Select Committee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony, but not less than two. The Select Committee may employ and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, consultants, technicians, stenographers, investigators, and clerical and stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution. The Select Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Select Committee, other than expenses in connection with meetings of the Select Committee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of Columbia.

Subpoenas may be authorized by the select committee, or any subcommittee thereof, or the chairman of the select committee, and issued under the signature of the chairman of the select committee or any member of the Select Committee designated by him, and may be served by any persons designated by such chairman or member.

The select committee shall be considered a committee of the House of Representatives for all purposes of law, including but not limited to section 102 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 192); and sections 6002 and 6003 of title 18, United States Code or any other act of Congress regulating the granting of immunity to witnesses.

The select committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedures, which rules shall not be inconsistent with this resolution and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The select committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, will the gentleman from Texas, the new majority leader, tell us whether it is possible in the change of rules for the House Com-

mittee on Administration to allocate money to this particular function without a vote of the House?

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, and I will yield for confirmation to the House Committee on Administration, that absent an amendment of this type, there would be means by which the committee makes funds available to this select committee.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. The gentleman from New Jersey at the moment is now chairman of the Committee on House Administration.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Is there anything in the gentleman's mind that the gentleman will be?

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman will yield further, with experiences of the past, it might be reasonable with this rule; but earlier in the day the House adopted the rule so all select, special, ad hoc and other committees, before they can be formed must introduce resolutions which will to the Committee on House Administration, to its Subcommittee on Accounts the prospective chairman being our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT); then to the full committee and then to the floor.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. So what the gentleman is saying, before the committee function further in that respect, coming from the chairmanship the gentleman formerly held, it must be brought to floor.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the answer to that is "Yes." The House will have opportunity to consider the resolution not only for the committee to which distinguished majority leader is referring, but to all other special, select, ad hoc committees.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, if I am reserving the right to object, effect of this resolution is really based a continuing resolution until a further resolution is passed.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, that is precisely correct.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I am glad to yield. Mr. THOMPSON. Essentially the resolution of the gentleman from Texas is to reconstitute the committee. The committee, presuming the adoption of next resolution, which is a continuing resolution, will be entitled to the equivalent of 1 month's expenditure, or approximately \$8,000 per month, until House acts on the larger budget request.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comment. I was my next question. We are then, effect, voting to fund this select committee for 1 more month.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD-HOUSE

H 25

January 4, 1977

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. Presuming from the date the continuing resolution, which will be up next passes, the Committee on Assassinations, or whatever it is called, will be funded under the language of the continuing resolution until March 31.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. At the rate of approximately \$8,000 a month?

Mr. THOMPSON. If the gentleman will yield further, at the equivalent of one-twelfth per month of its authorization in the previous Congress, keeping in mind that the committee was constituted late in the previous Congress, in September.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. WRIGHT. I think the accurate description of what this would permit is to say that it would allow the continued authorization, until some action can be taken, at the rate of actual expenditure incurred by that committee in the month of December.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. But not to exceed that amount?

Mr. WRIGHT. Not to exceed that amount; not to exceed that amount.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. From the \$50,000 per month, is that what it is?

Mr. WRIGHT. If the gentleman will yield further, I am advised that that is approximately correct, and under no circumstances could enactment of this resolution authorize any amount calling for the expenditure of more than \$50,000.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

Mr. BAUMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I certainly was not aware that this resolution was going to be called up this afternoon. Copies have not been available to Members generally. I listened to its reading very carefully, as one who supported the original authorization for this committee. I believed the statement of the former gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Downing, that the investigation was going to cost one-half million dollars to \$1 million and would continue for about a year. I am and a great many other people are alarmed at the scope of both the staffing and the expenditures that have now been proposed.

Surely, this committee does not have a higher claim to the consideration of the House than many of those standing or select committees or other groups. Unfortunately, none of us have had much of a chance to consider this. I would ask the gentleman if the resolution could not be brought up on Thursday so that Members would have a sufficient chance to consider it.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BAUMAN. Certainly. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. WRIGHT. I wish the gentleman would not suggest that we bring it up on Thursday, because Thursday is set aside for the somewhat ceremonial, but none-

theless extremely important, constitutionally directed business of canvassing votes and discovering who was elected President of the United States.

I would suggest to the gentleman that the House will have ample opportunity to work its will as to the vote with respect to this particular committee. I too, as has the gentleman from Maryland, have been alarmed by quite large sums bandied about in the press as to the probable cost of this investigation. What we are doing at the moment is authorizing only the very short view, because it is necessary to authorize continuously lest it die, and then at a rate no more than the amount of money expended monthly as was expended in the preceding month, which was the month of December.

It cannot cost more than about \$50,000, and I would suggest to the gentleman that it is appropriate to vote on it today. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gonzalez), I am advised, discussed it in some detail with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Downs), and I am not aware of any basic issue.

Mr. BAUMAN. Further reserving the right to object, I understand the gentleman's desire to have this fast \$50,000 which—if the gentleman will pardon the expression—is not peanuts. I do think that if we go ahead with this resolution we are, in effect, approving of what we have heard the committee's plans are for the future. I cannot agree to the scope of those plans or the cost.

I therefore object to its consideration.

The SPEAKER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will inform the gentleman that that motion is not in order at this time.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 10 RELATING TO HOUSE DOCUMENTS SUBPENAED BY COURTS OF LEGAL OFFICE

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 10), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 10

Whereas, by the privileges of this House no evidence of a documentary character under the control and in the possession of the House of Representatives can, by the mandate of process of the ordinary courts of justice be taken from such control or possession except by its permission: Therefore be it

Resolved, That when it appears by the order of any court of the United States or a judge thereof, or of any legal officer charged with the administration of the orders of such court or judge, that documentary evidence in the possession and under the control of the House is needful for use in any court of justice or before any judge or such legal officer, for the promotion of justice, this House will take such action thereon as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges and rights of this House; and be it further

Resolved, That during the Ninety-fifth Congress, when a subpoena or other order for the production or disclosure of information is by the due process of a court in the United States served upon any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives, directing appearance as a witness

before the said Court at any time and the production of certain and sundry papers in the possession and under the control of the House of Representatives, that any such Member, officer, or employee of the House, after advising the Speaker, be authorized to appear before said court at the place and time named in any such subpoena or order. But no papers or documents in the possession or under the control of the House of Representatives shall be produced in response thereto, and be it further

Resolved, That after the Speaker has been notified by the Member, officer, or employee that a paper court has determined upon the materiality and relevancy of specific papers or documents called for by the subpoena or other order, then said court, through any of its officers or agents shall have full permission to attend with all proper parties to the proceeding before said court and at a place under the orders and control of the House of Representatives and take copies of the said documents or papers and the Clerk of the House is authorized to supply certified copies of such documents that the court has found to be material and relevant, except that under no circumstances shall any minutes or transcripts of executive sessions, or any evidence of witnesses in respect thereto be disclosed, copied, nor shall the possession of said documents and papers by any Member, officer, or employee of the House be disturbed or removed from their place of file or custody of or said Member, officer, or employee; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives reserves to itself the power to revoke or modify the authority contained herein in all or specific instances; and be further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of the House to any of said courts whenever such writs of subpoena or other orders are issued and served as aforesaid.

The resolution was agreed to.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement concerning the electronic voting system.

After consultation with the leadership on both sides of the aisle it has been decided that it would be convenient to Members to permit changes in votes cast with the electronic system by reinserting the voting card under the following conditions:

First, on 15-minute sessions, Members may reinsert a voting card in any voting station during the first 10 minutes of the voting period. After 10 minutes, if a Member wishes to change his vote, he must follow the present procedure of doing so by voting card, in the well, following the completion of the 15-minute voting period; with the announcement of his change when called by the Clerk.

Second, on 5-minute votes the revised procedure will permit Members to reinsert voting cards in any voting station at any time until the Chair directs voting stations to be closed by inquiry whether Members in the Chamber wish to change their votes or be recorded. In that point until the Chair's announcement of the result, Members must follow the present procedure of submitting voting cards. In the well, at the completion of the 5-minute voting period, an announcing his change when recorded to do so.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

January 13, 1977

ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the 94th Congress on September 17, 1976, debated, deliberated and decided that there should be an investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It seems to me unconscionable to the American people, this House and the professional staff who have already begun this investigation now to redebate a policy which has previously been decided.

Legitimate questions have been raised by my colleague, Chairman DONALD EDWARDS, about the conduct of the investigation. To keep the Members of this House fully apprised of those issues as well as my response I have inserted all of that correspondence in the RECORD of this House. Other inquiries have been raised about the proposed budget and the size of the staff. Personal attacks have been leveled in the media against Richard Sprague, the committee's chief counsel.

The inquiries do not raise an issue as to whether we should continue these vital investigations but how. Certainly there should be no question as to the will or desire of the American people to carry on these investigations. The primary issue now facing the House is simply to reestablish the select committee.

There are very compelling reasons for the immediate reestablishment of the select committee. For example, subpoenas which have been issued in both the Kennedy and King investigations are no longer enforceable. Thus, the evidence which was previously under the control of the House is no longer effectively under its control. Similarly, evidence which should be immediately brought under the control of the House cannot because there is no committee and no subpoena power. The select committee is literally in a legal limbo.

The committee has assembled a staff of professionals who are continuing to proceed. Yesterday, members of the Kennedy subcommittee and I received a briefing from the staff outlining areas of investigation which require sustained effort. I know that if it were possible to divulge at this stage of the investigation the facts and evidence adduced, every reasonable-minded Member of the House would say: "By all means proceed." I believe that if the American people were to know these same facts and developments, they would never forgive us for not going on.

The staff is continuing to proceed with the acquisition and analysis of documents from all agencies of Federal, State, and local government. Unfortunately, where there is no legal authority, even the acquisition of documents has been seriously hampered.

Today, I received a letter from Attorney General Levi, properly advising me that until the committee is reestablished we are "unauthorized persons," and thus prevented from further examination and analysis of records. The Attorney General has assured me of his cooperation once the committee is re-

established and I am also advised that he has directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to continue to process requests so it can be examined and analyzed as soon as the select committee is reestablished.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I cannot too strongly stress that it is imperative that the select committee be established immediately. Unwarranted delay will permanently cripple the efforts of our investigations.

HOUSE

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

January 10, 1977

CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION BY SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, there appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for January 6, 1977, a copy of a letter from my distinguished colleague Chairman DON EDWARDS to former Chairman TOM DOWNING of the Select Committee on Assassinations. I had responded to Chairman EDWARDS' letter on December 28, 1976. Unfortunately only Chairman EDWARDS' letter was presented, but my response which was also available, was not.

Fundamental fairness to the Members of this House dictates that all correspondence between Chairman EDWARDS and myself be presented so each Member may properly evaluate the issues raised in the complete context. The letters follow:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., December 28, 1976.
Hon. DON EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR DON: Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Chairman DOWNING dated December 16, 1976, with respect to the conduct of the investigation by the Select Committee on Assassinations.

I don't know if Chairman DOWNING has replied. I hope he has. I certainly agree with you that the Select Committee in its investigation must proceed under the highest ethical and professional standards. Indeed, we have never set lower standards, nor do we intend to. One of the major characteristics of this project is the preservation of the integrity of the Congress. If we should do anything in an unprofessional manner, our credibility as well as that of this House would be diminished.

I have not had an opportunity to see the December 16, 1976, Los Angeles Times article to which you referred. However, you are, of course, aware that matters stated in the press sometimes are taken out of context, and sometimes are inaccurately phrased. Rather than indulge in fruitless discussion over the content of what may have been reported in the media, it is preferable just to discuss the matters raised by you in your letter.

The transmitters to which you refer are not for the purpose of secretly recording interviews of witnesses. Rather they are to be used by investigators during surveillance activity when safety considerations dictate that investigators transmit their own comments. I am sure you are aware that in some situations it is imperative to have this type of equipment for the protection of investigators. In fact, we are seeking only two (2) such devices.

Mr. Sprague clearly stated that no person would be taped unless he both knew and consented to having the conversation or interview taped. Indeed, the transcripts and tapes of interviews of witnesses who al-

ready have been interviewed show conclusively that in each case the individual knew the conversation was being taped and consented to the taping. The record of one of our subcommittee executive sessions will further show that the witness knew that the interview was being taped, that he consented to the taping and that he further knew that the tape might be played before the Select Committee. I will be happy to make that or any transcript or tape available for your review should you so desire.

Second, as to the polygraph, it has been stated at our public hearing as well as in our press conferences, and in executive session, that our use of the polygraph would, of course, only be with the consent of the witness. Our position has remained the same from the beginning.

We do not intend to use the polygraph or stress evaluators in any way as evidence to be produced at any hearings. The use of these devices is identical to that employed by other investigative agencies, i.e., to aid the investigation, but not to establish conclusions. It also should be pointed out that from the commencement of this

investigation we have rejected the concept of using the polygraph or stress evaluators for employment purposes in any fashion.

It should be noted that we have never attempted to hide the fact of our use of the polygraph and stress evaluators. As with most of our decisions they are made openly and are always subject to review by the House. Thus you will find both items, and all other hardware requests, clearly specified in our proposal budget.

Third, with respect to your concern for the protection of the civil and constitutional rights of witnesses, the Committee is most aware of the problem. This consideration was an important factor which contributed to our decision to hold executive sessions. We have determined to utilize public hearings only where the evidence to be elicited has been clearly established and verified.

As a matter of fact, the decision to hold public hearings was in accord with the rules of the House and on the occasions when we didn't, it was only after a rollcall. One such resulted in a 6-4 tie. In this manner, we can avoid the potential danger of exposing an individual or government agency to unwarranted ridicule or the airing of unproved allegations. We feel strongly that the vehicle of public hearings to prove or disprove allegations when the appropriate evidence has been accumulated and corroborated is very important to this process. Developing our findings with full knowledge at each stage of our proceeding will, we believe, foster the support of the American public for our ultimate conclusions. We feel that holding public hearings distinguishes our process from that of the Warren Commission which as you know held their proceedings in closed session until the final report was filed. In our judgment, that secrecy reduced the effectiveness of the Commission work and subjected its conclusions to skepticism and speculation which would have been avoided by public disclosure.

Incidentally, the situations where Mr. Sprague has spoken publicly have been in the public sessions and at various press conferences, sometimes under the express instruction of Chairman DOWNING; unfortunately, the Committee, under Mr. DOWNING did not establish guidelines. But, Don, I cannot say that Mr. Sprague has been anything but prudent and restrained, even in the absence of this needed Committee guidance. Let me assure you of the fact that if I should become Chairman, this will be provided in a manner similar to the handling of your Committee during impeachment hearings.

Again, I appreciate your concern and assure you that the Select Committee will conduct this investigation in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards. I hope you will always share your concerns with me and the members of the Committee.

With kindest personal regards, I am
Sincerely,

HENRY B. GONZALEZ,
Member of Congress

January 17, 1977

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 10363

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C. 20540 Congress,
January 6, 1977.

1. HENRY B. GOWALEX,
House of Representatives, Rayburn
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
DEAR HENRY: Thank you for your letter of
December 28, 1976. I appreciate your timely
comments on my letter to Chairman Down-
ing regarding the investigative methods of
the Select Committee on Assassinations. Your
letter certainly showed that, should you be-
come a Chairman, you intend to approach your
responsibility in a serious and professional
manner.

But while I found your letter partly reas-
suring, it raised some additional questions
in my mind that I believe need to be an-
swered. It is important to all of us to have a
clear understanding of the Select Commit-
tee's policies and procedures before any in-
formed decisions can be made on the wisdom
of its continued existence or on the amount
of its budget requests.

As a preliminary matter, I am enclosing
a copy of the Los Angeles Times article I
referred to in my letter to Chairman Down-
ing. It will enable you to understand the
specific context in which I wrote that initial
letter. I am certainly aware that media ac-
counts of various events are not always en-
tirely accurate, or are often taken out of
context. But in this case I am disturbed by
the fact that the remarks that prompted my
letter to Chairman Downing were direct
quotations from Mr. Sprague.

In your letter you discuss the use of the
transmitters referred to in the article.
I am very relieved to hear that the trans-
mitters will not be used to secretly record

interviews of witnesses. However, your
statement that they will be used during
"surveillance activity," leaves me no less
concerned than Mr. Sprague's earlier state-
ments as reported in the Times. I am ab-
solutely unable to comprehend a situation
which would require "surveillance activity"
of any kind. Who and under what authority
will the Select Committee's investigators be
surveilling? If you could describe more fully
what you have in mind and indicate whether
American citizens would be the subject of
such surveillance and if so, under what cir-
cumstances, I would appreciate that infor-
mation.

You also state that the transmitters are
imperative . . . for the protection of in-
vestigators "in some situations, and that I
must certainly be aware of this necessity.
I assure you I am not aware of any such
need. What kind of activity is contemplated
that would require such protection? From
whom? And more importantly, by whom? The
ones that come to mind when I ask my-
self such questions are, as you can imagine,
extremely disturbing. A Congressional in-
vestigation is not, and should never be, a
game of cops and robbers.

I am relieved to know that polygraphs will
be used only with the consent of the witness.
Does the Committee also intend to obtain
such consent for the use of the stress evalua-
tor as well? Moreover, you state that the
Select Committee's use of the polygraph and
the stress evaluator would be identical to
that of other investigative agencies. It is my
understanding, however, that the FBI does
not use stress evaluators at all, because the
Bureau is not yet persuaded of its reliability
even as an investigative device.

House Resolution 9, introduced on January
4, 1977, differs from the Resolution last
year creating the Select Committee on As-
sassinations. The new resolution now con-
tains a stated legislative purpose. I cannot
express too vigorously my hope that public
hearings will be directed strictly at the leg-

islative purpose. Periodic hearings while you
are gathering information and evidence does
in the face of every constitutional safeguard
attendant to criminal investigations. Spilling
out bits and pieces of information before
the investigation is complete will obviously
present a distorted picture and cannot avoid,
in my view, causing serious harm to poten-
tial witnesses.

I do not believe that the American peo-
ple or the Congress wish to indulge in a tem-
porary suspension of the Bill of Rights,
however, laudable the ultimate purpose may
be. I believe the House of Representatives
should conduct a thorough and serious study of
the problem and the questions raised by the
purposes of this investigation will or should
cause the public to hold Congress in higher
esteem is only valid if the task is completed
in a dedicated manner which respects all
traditional safeguards.

Frankly, I am not persuaded at this point
that either the Committee or the staff has
given adequate thought to its basic role, its
own procedures, and the myriad problems
which confront it in the proper discharge
of the authorizing resolution. I would like to
be able to fully support the activities of the
Select Committee. I cannot, however, approve
any tactics or techniques which I have per-
sonally fought against when employed by
the Executive Branch or by other Congres-
sional committees.

Since we all will be called upon to sup-
port your work, I believe these questions
must be dealt with in a most precise manner
as soon as possible.

My staff and I will be happy to meet with
you, your members and your staff at any
time to discuss this matter of common con-
cern.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

DON EDWARDS,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil and
Constitutional Rights.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., January 7, 1977.

HON. DON EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil and Con-
stitutional Rights, Committee on the
Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Build-
ing, Washington, D.C.

DEAR DON: Thank you for your letter of
January 6, 1977, in response to my letter of
December 28, 1976, with respect to the con-
duct of the investigations into the assassina-
tions of President John F. Kennedy and
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the very beginning of that letter I
stated: "I certainly agree with you that the
Select Committee in its investigation must
proceed under the highest ethical and pro-
fessional standards. Indeed, we have never
set lower standards, nor do we intend to. One
of the major characteristics of this project
is the preservation of the integrity of the
Congress. If we should do anything in an
unprofessional manner, our credibility as
well as that of this House would be dimi-
nished."

The statement relating to the use of trans-
mitters and polygraphs must be read in the
context of the foregoing assurance. Similarly,
it must also be read in the context of my
statement on Page 2, paragraph 4 that all
such requests are subject to review by the
House.

Somehow, Don, in my haste to respond to
the letter you wrote to Former Chairman
Downing, I apparently did not make clear
that each investigative technique must be
approved by the full committee after careful
consideration, debate and deliberation.

Each of us has taken an oath to uphold
and preserve the Constitution. We intend

to do no less in the course of this investiga-
tion and most emphatically not to "in-
dulge in a temporary suspension of the Bill
of Rights."

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this
with you and your staff at the earliest pos-
sible time to avoid further misunderstand-
ings as to our intent and purpose.

With kindest personal regards, I am
Sincerely,

HENRY B. GOWALEX,

Member of Congress.

P.S.—I am grateful to you to have had
an opportunity to speak to you on the tele-
phone today. I have stated the above before
I spoke to you and most grateful to have
a chance to meet with you Monday as you
consented to and will see you then.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman
from Maryland (Mr. BAYMAN) intro-
duced into the record of this House a
personal attack on the committee's
chief counsel, Richard Sprague. He
suggests, among other things, that Mr.
Sprague has "virtually assumed the
role of chairman of the committee." It
is implicit in that unfounded accusation

that the members of the committee have
abrogated their constitutional duties.
The conclusion has no basis in fact. In-
deed, I can state quite unequivocally that
my colleagues on the committee from
both sides of the aisle have worked dili-
gently to insure a credible, professional,
ethical, independent investigation. There
is no reason to believe that we will con-
tinue to do less. One must bear in mind
that when the House created the select
committee last year, it had nothing, not
even a place to meet, much less a staff.
It had a total life span of 2½ months.

Next, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman
introduced an article which appeared in
the New York Times on January 1, 1977,
written by David Burnham. I do not
often dignify unfounded accusations in
the press by responding to them, but
where, as here, a journalistic vendetta
dredged from the turgid and murky
waters of big city politics more than a
decade ago has been introduced into the
record of this House, I am constrained
to conclude that justice and fair play
require a response. Failure to respond to
accusations of this nature would work a
fraud upon the House.

Mr. Burnham in his article suggests
that the committee did not do a back-
ground investigation of Mr. Sprague
prior to his selection as chief counsel.
What Mr. Burnham did not write was
that Mr. Sprague was appointed Special
Assistant to the Attorney General of the
United States in charge of the Boyle
prosecution. A fact which was known
and considered by members of the com-
mittee when they unanimously con-
firmed Sprague as chief counsel. I think
it only fair to conclude that if the U.S.
Department of Justice found Mr.
Sprague to be of questionable integrity or
ability the appointment would never
have been made.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think it is
clear that any person who has spent as
many years in public service and who
has prosecuted as many cases as has
Richard Sprague will be the target for
criticisms. Where those criticisms are
politically motivated they command no
credence.

see any possible benefit that can be gained by exploring these past events. Yet no less than the integrity of our democratic process and belief in fundamental freedoms is at stake. The House is the largest body which represents the American people; the public's faith in the integrity of our democratic process and constitutional ideals is the foundation of our authority to govern. We have a continuing obligation to justify such faith. Under such circumstances, the burden is not on the House to justify why it should investigate these assassinations, but on those opposed to the investigations to make a compelling case for why it should not.

In constituting the select committee and charging it with the responsibility to conduct a full and complete investigation, this House vested great responsibility in its committee. In fact, the integrity of the Congress in the future may rest, in some part, on the thoroughness of this investigation. Absent a thorough investigation, we will risk being subject to the same allegations of cover-up, ineffectiveness, and the like that are the very reasons it is necessary that we undertake the current investigations. If we do not perform fully and effectively, we will lose the opportunity to explore the jeopardy to our governmental structure at the time of the assassinations.

We will not merely lose the opportunity to learn from a historical lesson, but possibly the opportunity to bring to justice those who have for these many years remained unpunished and unexposed. Thus, it is imperative, as the original resolution charges, that we perform our function completely so that there will be left no unresolved questions as to the past. The purpose of the House, therefore, must not be to restrict the quest for truth, but in fact, to broaden it.

To this end, the original resolution, as well as that in question today, charges the select committee to examine not only the murders of Kennedy and King, but also "any others the select committee shall determine." Much thought has been given to the inclusion of this phrase by the members of our committee and staff. We have determined that in its absence, very grave problems could befall the course of our investigation and we could be thwarted in the vital collection of evidence and testimony. Simply stated, absent this phrase, we might be

confined to the investigation of facts restricted in time and place, to the deaths of these two great leaders.

It is known by the Members of this House that many persons have died since the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Whether they be witnesses, conspirators or deaths totally unrelated to the assassinations, an exploration of the circumstances and the impact of their deaths may be vital to finally answer all the questions that have been raised. Without the clause in question, we might be compelled to prove the death was related to either that of Kennedy or King before we have the authority to investigate that very issue. Courts never presume a relationship in a situation such as this, but require its proof; without broad jurisdiction in this select committee, proof may be impossible.

Most of the questions with regard to the authority and the jurisdiction of the investigation will arise when a subpoena is questioned. It is my belief that without this clause, the burden of proof upon

this House will be severely increased. Without this language, a court might narrowly construe the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Kennedy and King to those events which were directly related in time and proximity. Such a narrow construction might preclude the committee from investigating the many mysteries that have arisen concerning the deaths of others which may bear directly on the investigation. Such a narrow construction would be an error given the broad inquiry the committee and House intends to undertake but it is a possibility whose effects we should minimize.

Moreover, since this clause did appear in the original resolution, to delete it at this juncture might suggest that Congress intended to narrow the extent of the authority of the select committee. This might be fatal to the effort to obtain any analyze the evidence.

The point of this discussion is that the inclusion of this language in the resolution as a deliberate and conscious determination by this House will indicate to any court that the Congress wishes the investigation to be unfettered by a narrow delineation of authority. The purpose of embarking upon this inquiry is a full and thorough quest for the truth, and if this involves the deaths, murders, or assassinations of others that may initially appear only tangentially, remotely, or indirectly relevant to those of Kennedy and King, then I hope the committee will be able to examine the issue before it has to demonstrate or prove any relevance to the death of Kennedy or King.

In fact, so that no question should exist in the minds of others, whether they be those under subpoena to testify or the courts examining our subpoenas, permit me to discuss briefly the areas which this House wishes to have us explore, without narrow limitation. The "circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death" of Kennedy and King is meant to be a very broad scope of inquiry. It is meant to include those

who may have been involved in the planning, execution or any coverup of the assassinations. It is meant to include the investigations into each assassination. It is meant to include all events that may relate to either assassination—whether they occurred within days of either death or within the past week.

It is clear that the select committee should attempt to determine the identities and motives of all persons who were in any way involved in the killings of Kennedy and King. This inquiry, of course, would include the examination of whether or not any governmental agencies, Federal, State, or local in the United States or any foreign country

were involved. Moreover, the oversight responsibility of the Congress would include examination into whether or not any law enforcement or intelligence agency of the United States had knowledge of or was in any way a party to plots to murder these leaders.

It is important that the select committee determine whether or not any agency of the Federal, State, or local government engaged in the investigation into either assassination fully and effectively performed its function. In fact, was there the required degree of effectiveness in the cooperation among these agencies? Finally, did any person, agency or organization deter the course of the investigation of these assassinations by withholding, destroying, or altering evidence?

The investigation, to date, has raised many questions in the areas that I have just categorized. Although I do not mean to suggest that we have firm conclusions as to the resolution of any of these questions I have raised, there is no doubt that we have uncovered much material which gives rise to further exploration.

Before I conclude, may I take one last moment to urge upon this House that we act quickly and expeditiously to reauthorize the select committee. Any further delay could result in a serious hindrance to our investigation in its quest for truth. The obvious effect of delay would be to suggest to others that this House vacillates and is indecisive as to whether or not it wishes to pursue this cause. This will result in a critical effect on our credibility with other agencies, whether executive branch, State or local, and will suggest a lack of firmness in our pursuit of a subpoena with the judicial branch. Of more acute importance, two problems immediately face the committee for we are without any legal authority whatsoever and, in law, do not exist. Thus, 13 vital subpoenas for essential evidence which have been issued in Tennessee and Texas are, at present, completely unenforceable. Further, those of us on the committee have seen emergency situations arise in the past where the testimony of witnesses or the collection and custody of evidence is immediately vital, and under our current status, we could only sit helplessly in futility.

In conclusion, I ask you now, expeditiously and with full support to reauthorize the select committee. In effect, I ask you to permit us to finish the job which we have just begun. To turn our back on this obligation now is unthinkable and would make this House the laughing stock of the world. So much has shaken the confidence of the American people in their governmental institutions in the past two decades that we find ourselves with a rare opportunity, at least in these two areas, to say to our fellow citizens that given this opportunity, we acted.

JANUARY 16, 1977

PURSUANT TO Henry B. Gonzalez

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: SPECIAL ORDERS TO ADDRESS the

The assassinations of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King shook the very foundations of our governmental structure ^{House} based on the concept of the free and peaceful exercise of ^{for} rightful authority and expression of opinion or belief. 15

Indeed, they raised the question of whether or not we are a ^{MINUT} nation governed by laws or by men. Unfortunately, as a result of potentially ineffectual investigations, the answer to that question has never been fully resolved. Consequently, this House determined that it would, once and for all, decide the extent to which the fabric of our nation's structure was torn. . . . how . . . and, by whom.

Some people question whether the House can justify why these investigations should be under taken. They do not see any possible benefit that can be gained by exploring these past events. Yet no less than the integrity of our democratic process and belief in fundamental freedoms is at stake. The House is the largest body which represents the American people; the public's faith in the integrity of our democratic process and constitutional ideals is the foundation of our authority to govern. We have a continuing obligation to justify such faith. Under such circumstances, the burden is not on the House to justify why it should investigate these assassinations, but on those opposed to the investigations to make a compelling case for why it should not.

In constituting the Select Committee and charging it with the responsibility to conduct a full and complete investigation, this House vested great responsibility in its Committee. In fact, the integrity of the Congress in the future may rest, in some part, on the thoroughness of this investigation. Absent a through investigation, we will risk being subject to the same allegations of cover-up, ineffectiveness, and the like that are the very reasons it is necessary that we undertake the current investigations. If we do not perform fully and effectively, we will lose the opportunity to explore the jeopardy to our governmental structure at the time of the assassinations. We will not merely lose the opportunity to learn from a historical lesson, but possibly the opportunity to bring to justice those who have for these many years remained unpunished and unexposed. Thus, it is imperative, as the original resolution charges, that we perform our function completely so that there will be left no unresolved questions as to the past. The purpose of the House, therefore, must not be to restrict ^{the} ~~the~~ quest for truth, but in fact, to broaden it.

To this end, the original resolution, as well as that in question today, charges the Select Committee to examine not only the murders of Kennedy and King, but also "any others

the Select Committee shall determine". Much thought has been given to the inclusion of this phrase by the members of our committee and staff. We have determined that in its absence, very grave problems could befall the course of our investigation and we could be thwarted in the vital collection of evidence and testimony. Simply stated, absent this phrase, we might be confined to the investigation of facts restricted in time and place, to the deaths of these two great leaders.

It is known by the members of this House that many persons have died since the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Whether they be witnesses, conspirators or deaths totally unrelated to the assassinations, an exploration of the circumstances and the impact of their deaths may be vital to finally answer all the questions that have been raised. Without the clause in question, we might be compelled to prove the death was related to either that of Kennedy or King before we have the authority to investigate that very issue. Courts never presume a relationship in a situation such as this, but require its proof; without broad jurisdiction in this Select Committee, proof may be impossible.

Most of the questions with regard to ^{the} ~~our~~ authority and the jurisdiction of ^{the} ~~our~~ investigation will arise when a subpoena is questioned. It is ^{my} ~~our~~ belief that without this

clause, the burden of proof upon the Select Committee as to the intent of this House will be severely increased. Without this language, a Court might narrowly construe the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Kennedy and King to those events which were directly related in time and proximity. Such a narrow construction might preclude ~~the~~ ^{the} Committee from investigating the many mysteries that have arisen concerning the deaths of others which may bear directly on ~~the~~ ^{the} investigation. Such a narrow construction would be an error given the broad inquiry the Committee and House intends to undertake but it is a possibility whose effects we should minimize.

Moreover, since this clause did appear in the original resolution, to delete it at this juncture might suggest that Congress intended to narrow the extent of the authority of the Select Committee. This might be fatal to ~~the~~ ^{the} effort to obtain and analyze the evidence.

The point of this discussion is that the inclusion of this language in the resolution as a deliberate and conscious determination by this House will indicate to any Court that ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Congress wishes~~ ^{Congress wishes} the investigation to be unfettered by a narrow delineation of authority. The purpose of embarking upon this inquiry is a full and thorough quest for the truth, and if this involves the deaths, murders or assassinations of

others that may initially appear only tangentially, remotely, or indirectly relevant to those of Kennedy and King, then ~~the~~ ^{will} ~~whether~~ Committee ~~to~~ be able to examine the issue before it has to demonstrate or prove any relevance to the death of Kennedy or King.

In fact, so that no question should exist in the minds of others, whether they be those under subpoena to testify or the Courts examining our subpoenas, permit me to discuss briefly the areas which this House wishes to have us explore, without narrow limitation: The "circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death" of Kennedy and King is meant to be a very broad scope of inquiry. It is meant to include those who may have been involved in the planning, execution or any cover-up of the assassinations. It is meant to include the investigations into each assassination. It is meant to include all events that may relate to either assassination - whether they occurred within days of either death or within the past week.

It is clear that the Select Committee should attempt to determine the identities and motives of all persons who were in any way involved in the killings of Kennedy and King. This inquiry, of course, would include the examination of whether or not any governmental agencies, federal, state or

local in the United States or any foreign country were involved. Moreover, the oversight responsibility of the Congress would include examination into whether or not any law enforcement or intelligence agency of the United States had knowledge of or was in any way a party to plots to murder these leaders. It is important that the Select Committee determine whether or not any agency of the federal, state or local government engaged in the investigation into either assassination fully and effectively performed its function. In fact, was there the required degree of effectiveness in the cooperation among these agencies? Finally, did any person, agency or organization deter the course of the investigation of these assassinations by withholding, destroying or altering evidence?

~~The~~ investigation, to date, has raised many questions in the areas that I have just catagorized. Although I do not mean to suggest that we have firm conclusions as to the resolution of any of these questions I have raised, there is no doubt that we have uncovered much material which gives rise to further exploration.

Before I conclude, may I take one last moment to urge upon this House that we act quickly and expeditiously to reauthorize the Select Committee. Any further delay could result in a serious hindrance to our investigation in its

quest for truth. The obvious effect of delay would be to suggest to others that this House vacillates and is indecisive as to whether or not it wishes to pursue this cause. This will result in a critical effect on our credibility with other agencies, whether executive branch, state or local, and will suggest a lack of firmness in our pursuit of a subpoena with the judicial branch. Of more acute importance, two problems immediately face us ^{this Committee} for we are without any legal authority whatsoever and, in law, do not exist. Thus, thirteen vital subpoenas for essential evidence which have been issued in Tennessee and Texas are, at present, completely unenforceable. ^{those of us on the committee.} Further, ^A we have seen emergency situations arise in the past where the testimony of witnesses or the collection and custody of evidence is immediately vital, and under our current status, we could only sit by helplessly in futility.

In conclusion, ^I we ask you now, expeditiously and with full support to reauthorize the Select Committee. In effect, ^I we ask you to permit us to finish the job which we have just begun. To turn our back on this obligation now is unthinkable and would make this House the laughing stock of the World. So much has shaken the confidence of the American people in their governmental institutions in the past two decades that we find ourselves with a rare opportunity, at least in these two areas, to say to our fellow citizens that given this opportunity, we acted.

SOME LITTLE/UNKNOWN VERBATIM TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS RE OSWALD/JFK ASSASSINATION- T.G.

- 1) I received a copy of this document from Congressman Thomas Downing in late 1976. It is CIA document #113, the text of which follows:(dated 4/Dec./'63:)
 "Source on(deleted) said he saw (deleted-deleted) reported Sov.Con.Gen. (Soviet Counsellate General) told him 30 November that Oswald sent to U.S.S.R. and married Soviet girl under C.I.A. instructions."
 (The above PROVES Oswald was in the employ of the C.I.A.)as does below;
- 2) Marine Corps lieutenant John Donovan's testimony before the Warren Commission-(excerpt) Volume 8..page 298...
 "Shortly before I got out of the Marine Corps, which was mid-December, 1959, we received word that he ~~g~~ (Oswald) had showed up in Moscow, this necessitated a lot of change of aircraft call-signs, codes, radio frequencies, radar frequencies..he had access to the location of all bases in the west coast area, all radio frequencies for all squadrons, all tactical call-signs, and the relative strean~~th~~ of all squadrons numbers and type of aircraft/in ~~as~~ a squadron, who was the Commanding Officer, the authentication code of entering and exiting the A.D.I.Z. (Air Defense Identification Zone), he knew the range of our radar, he knew the range of our radio, and he knew the range of the surrounding unit's radio and radar."
- 3) A CIA report, dated November 25, 1963 states:
 " On November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy while the President was riding in an open automobile on a Dallas, Texas street. The rifle used was a Mauser."
- 4) Another CIA report, dated November 27, 1963, states: (title)
" Information On The Weapon Presumably Used In The Assassination Of President Kennedy.:"
 10 As regards articles appearing recently in the Italian and foreign press concerning the presumed use of an Italian made rifle in the slaying of President Kennedy, the following comments are made:
 The weapon which appears to have been employed in this criminal attack is a Model 91 rifle, 7.35 calibre, 1938 modification; the description of a 'Mannlicher Carcano' rifle in the Italian and fereign press is in error."
 Editor's note: Congressman Thomas Downing, who read this CIA document on the floor of the House in late 1976, concludes by stating, "It should be clear that the initial identification of a rifle as a 7.65 Mauser clearly was not, as the Warren Commission maintained, because Deputy Constable Weitzman 'thought it looked like a Mauser'. Since the Commission's case against Oswald as the lone assassin is built almost exclusively on his ownership of a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano, the identification of the murder weapon as a 7.65 Mauser tends to discredit the ENTIRE case against Oswald."
- 5) On March 28, 1977, while Richard A. Sprague was chief counsel(before Blakey the House Assassinations Committee issued a report. In this interim report, these are some verbatim avenues of investigation, under Sprague:
 a)"The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA supported ANTI-Castro groups, and which suggest that his reported pro-Castro activities and possibly his 'alleged' trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to MASK those CIA associations."
 b)"The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before November 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed, and who stated that in November of '63, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was PERSONALLY introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby."

- 6) One of the earliest proclamations by the Dallas police was that Oswald's palmprints were on the rifle allegedly used to fire "all the shots" at President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. This "fact" helped to ~~not~~ incriminate Oswald of the crime in the eyes of people around the world. Here is the text, verbatim, of a document dated July 23, 1964, EIGHT MONTHS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK, sent by J. Lee Rankin, Warren Commission chief-counsel, (sort of G. Robert Blakey's counterpart; earlier,) to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau Of Investigation:

"Dear Mr. Hoover,

It has been alleged that the palmprint lifted from Oswald's rifle by the Dallas police is FALSE. This allegation is SUPPORTED by the statement that the F.B.I. told the press in an off-the-record briefing ~~at~~ session on November 23 or 24 that there was ABSOLUTELY NO PALMPRINT ON THE RIFLE."

AUTHORS NOTE:

The reason I have not published the actual copies of the above documents is because I have sent them, and they now reside, at the University of Wisconsin, in my own archive under my name for future/present critics, students, researchers, historians, etc. I have sent them very much of my 4,350 hours of tape-recordings, printed documents, etc. I retain copies of many of my tapes and on these tapes I have read the above texts of these documents. In addition to retaining many typed copies, I also retain 9 very large, thick scrapbooks of EVERYTHING on the JFK assassination in magazines, documents, articles, etc, etc.

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 3
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4824

MEMORANDUM

June 6, 1977

TO: Ted Gandolfo

FROM: Ty Roberts, Public Information Office

Pursuant to our telephone conversation this morning, enclosed are several news clippings about Mr. Sprague's news conference. Also enclosed is our statement in reaction to the story on the front page of the NEW YORK TIMES. As soon as GPO has the March 16th transcript printed, I will send you a copy. I assure you, that you will be the first one to get it.

Since the Select Committee was reconstituted on March 30 and funded on April 28, the Committee has been able to field a limited number of investigators in both the investigation of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

In the Kennedy case, investigators have interviewed persons named in the Warren Commission report and a number of "new" witnesses. In the case of Dr. King, investigators have interviewed witnesses who were at the scene and persons whose names have come forth subsequent to the prosecution of James Earl Ray.

I cannot comment on or characterize what these witnesses have told staff investigators, and no conclusions can be reached since the investigations are still in their early stage. But you must remember, our job was to "disprove as well as to "prove" as many of the facts, statements and theories that have come forth as possible. This is what we are doing.

SPRAGUE AND BLAKEY: THE EXTREME DIFFERENCES-

Richard A. Sprague became the first chief counsel of the Select Committee on November 18, 1976. He was a tough prosecutor, having conducted perhaps the classic investigation, and later, conviction, of Tony Boyle. On the day he assumed the chief counsel position on the HSCA, he stated in his first press conference that, "Every single document and every single witness would be subpoenaed from the FBI & CIA", and that "I do NOT intend to rely on the FBI or CIA in the investigation. It seems to me that one of the reasons that this investigation has come into being is because of the fact that those 2 agencies have covered up much of it's information in the past. Now that does not mean that I don't want access to what it is that they have." And then, the vicious media attacks on him began. David Burnham wrote EIGHT derogatory articles in ONE MONTH, January, 1977 in the New York Times, which were followed by an editorial statement of CONGRATULATIONS for Mr. Burnham for having utilized his investigative skills in attacking Mr. Sprague. George Lardner, An admitted CIA propaganda asset wrote a despicable attack on him in the Washington Post on February 1, 1977. George McMillan, also an admitted CIA "Propaganda asset" wrote his derogatory slimy piece on February 5, 1977, also in the Washington Post. Joseph Berger attacked Sprague TWICE..on January 21st and 25th in the New York Post. And, most assuredly, Time magazine got into the anti-Sprague act by publishing it's diatribe against him in it's February 14, 1977 edition. The theme of all these attacks were predicated on implications that Sprague had, at least 7 years earlier, used incorrect prosecutorial methods to convict a man unjustly. These stories were absolutely UNTRUE!! But these attacks were absolutely essential promulgations by the CIA, through it's "assets", because they knew that Sprague, if allowed to remain in that most important position, would most assuredly conduct a most thorough all-encompassing, TRUTHFUL investigation, which obviously go into the depths of the evidence which ultimately prove CIA involvement in the murder of President Kennedy, beyond question, now as well as discovering the FBI's involvement in the Martin Luther King, Jr., slaying also. This could not be allowed. The CIA's and FBI's goal, therefore, was to have Sprague removed and replaced by their OWN man, Robert Blakey, whose assignment would be to put distance between both the Agency and the Bureau and the 2 murders under investigation. I thoroughly agree with my friend and colleague, Richard E. Sprague, that this was a quite ingenious strategy used by the intelligence community. And it completely succeeded!!

It was determined that if Sprague remained as chief counsel, the Committee's continuance would be voted down and abolished when vote-time came soon, at which time, Sprague QUIT, saying, "I did not come here to PREVENT an investigation from taking place." A man named Ken Brooten was installed as temporary chief counsel until June 20, 1977, at which time the CIA's master stroke was completed. G. Robert Blakey, who definitely was a FINK for the CIA & FBI was made the permanent chief counsel of the HSCA. The evidence, as well as documents which appear further on in this book absolutely PROOVE my assertions. On the very day Blakey took over HE held a press conference, which you may compare with Spragues earlier press conference for some important insight. Here, now, are the verbatim questions put to Blakey during his press conference and his answers to them:

Q- Your description, Mr. Blakey, of the manner in which this investigation will be conducted, at least from a philosophic standpoint, is directly at odds from what we have been told up to this point. It has been reportedly told us that these are two murder investigations. You are telling us that this is NOT the case- that you are investigating as a legislative matter?

B- That is correct.

Q- You intend to restructure the investigation? As I understand it, in the beginning, the Committee was going to take a very broad-scope look at all of the evidence-all of the documents, etc.

B- Those decisions will be reached, but frankly, I doubt they will be made public.

Q- The Committee is staying on that course and intends to cover all the ground?

B- I'm not terribly sure that I understand...that we have a common understanding of what it's purpose is. It is my understanding that this is a legislative committee, pursuing a investigation, and NOT PURSUING TWO MURDER INVESTIGATIONS. During the course of that LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION, I would hope that all questions people might think relevant, IN THIS CONTEXT, will be answered.

Q- All questions relevant to the two murder investigations WHICH THEY ARE NOT INVESTIGATING?

B- I THINK THAT IS FAIR TO SAY.

Blakey concluded by saying, "The reason for this press conference is to say that there will be no other press conferences. I would like the press to let us alone so that we can conduct this investigation in a QUIET, orderly manner."

And quiet it indeed was...TOO damned quiet!! Just like the star-chamber proceedings of the, also QUIET, Warren Commission, as I then alluded to during one of the many shows I appeared on at KGO-radio in San Francisco, with a really great host, Bob Trebor, who was very receptive to our side. Thereafter, with Elakey in control, what occurred was an absolute abomination, in many respects. Immediately after Elakey was installed as chief counsel, the CIA& FBI issued out their infamous, NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT, which, in effect, prohibited EVERYONE, including the congresspersons who comprised the Committee, from divulging ANY evidence and/or information they learned about, to ANYONE!! This "agreement" is elsewhere in this book. To my knowledge, this is the very first time it has ever been published anywhere in it's entirety. Certainly, the CIA-laden media never published it ANYWHERE in this country!! Well, with this document, Elakey was in full control. He fired investigators and researchers alike, Donovan Gay and Bob Lehner among them, the two top investigators on the Committee, telling Gay that, "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were removed", and the firing of Lehner was because he did not pass the FBI/CIA security test!! So here we had the situation, as Mark Lane told me at the time, (elsewhere herein), "of the FBI and CIA investigating the House Select Committee on Assassinations, instead of the other way around."

Tell me, you readers, have you ever read about, or heard, of this development in ANY newspaper, or radio/TV news reportage? As one who continually taped all news from EVERY radio and TV station, as well as subscribing to 15 newspapers around the country during the ENTIRE "Investigation", I neither heard nor read about ANYTHING relating to all the above!!

Can it be assumed that the ENTIRE media was uninformed about these corruptions? The answer to that question is NO, because I informed them ALL about it!! (I retain ALL tape-recordings of my phone calls to them in this regard.)

It is all quite easy to figure out. The CIA murdered President Kennedy, covered-up this information by either destroying ALL evidence to this fact, LIES to the Warren Commission, MISLEADS the Warren Commission, TORPEDOES JIM GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF CLAY L. SHAW, BY ALSO DEMEANING HIS REPUTATION, AS THEY DID TO RICHARD A SPRAGUE, ELAKEY RECEIVES EVIDENCE OF DIRECT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK MURDER FROM JIM GARRISON AND SUPPRESSES IT, etc,etc, ad nauseum!!

Elakey also received absolute corroboration of conspiracy from the following:

- a)- Cyril H Wecht's BRILLIANT testimony during the Committee's Public Hearings, testimony which, in and of itself absolutely destroys the single-bullet/bullshit theory, so crucial to the "Lone Assassin" mythology- Elakey tells me Wecht's testimony was not accepted because, Elakey said to me, "BECAUSE WECHT WAS WRONG!", inferring that far less qualified forensic pathologist's were correct!!
- b) Richard E Sprague's photographic presentation to the Committee and Elakey during it's "investigation" which absolutely PROVES CONSPIRACY, as well as proving that Oswald, nor anyone else was, or could have been firing shots from the window of the TSHD building at the time of the assassination. Sprague's photographic evidence was COMPLETELY IGNORED by Elakey & company!!
- c) Bob Groden's most revelatory testimony and photographic evidence ALSO was totally ignored by Elakey's Bastards as well.

All went well until the acoustics panel rocked the coverup boat, proving that, at least 2, not one, persons was firing at JFK that infamous day. But, the CIA came to the rescue by informing Elakey that the shot fired from the grassy knoll MISSED JFK, although a 5-year-old could see, by viewing the Zapruder film, that the knoll shot did indeed strike Kennedy in the right temple!! But the Committee disallowed Newton's 2nd & 3rd laws of motion by saying/concluding that, "The shot fired from the grassy knoll MISSED the president." Can ANYTHING OR ANYONE be more sickening or revolutive?? I think not!!

THE BELOW IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE HSCA'S "INTERIM REPORT" DATED MARCH 28, 1977, WHILE RICHARD A. SPRAGUE WAS THE CHIEF COUNSEL. THESE, (BELOW) AREAS OF INQUIRY WERE NOT PURSUED WHEN BLAKEY BECAME THE COMMITTEE'S CHIEF COUNSEL, AND WEREN'T EVEN MENTIONED AT ALL IN THE HSCA'S FINAL REPORT, NOR IN ANY OF THE 12 VOLUMES OF IT'S EVIDENCE DEALING WITH THE JFK CASE!! WHAT YOU WILL READ BELOW IS VERY SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE AREA WHICH WERE COMPLETELY DISREGARDED UNDER BLAKEY'S LEADERSHIP!! THAT IS WHY, AS OPPOSED TO THE VICIOUS, UNTRUTHFUL ATTACKS AGAINST SPRAGUE IN THE CIA-MEDIA, I NEVER READ EVEN ONE DISSENTING VIEW ABOUT BLAKEY IN ANY NEWSPAPER, NOR ON ANY RADIO OR TV STATION, NOT ONE!!!

THAT IS, OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE THE CIA-MEDIA KNEW THAT THEY HAD THEIR MAN IN THERE NOW WHO WOULD "CONTROL" THE INVESTIGATION AND PROTECT THE CIA AND FBI IN THEIR ABSOLUTE INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK, MLK MURDERS, THAT'S WHY!!! TELL ME, DID ANY OF YOU READERS EVER READ OR HEAR ABOUT WHAT IS BELOW, ANYWHERE IN THE MEDIA?? THE ANSWER IS, OBVIOUSLY, NO!!!

III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Although the Committee is initiating methodical investigations to establish the basic facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, it is, in addition, pursuing new leads which have come to the Committee's attention. Some of this information, if corroborated and proved to be true, would indicate connections between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA and FBI. Furthermore, other sources of information allege that Oswald and Jack Ruby knew each other prior to the assassination and that Jack Ruby was associated with organized crime figures who participated in CIA-sponsored plots against Fidel Castro. Much of the new evidence is of a highly sensitive nature and cannot be publicly disclosed at this time; however, what follows are representative examples which illustrate the leads the Committee is currently pursuing.

The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA-supported anti-Castro groups and which suggest that his reported pro-Castro activities and possibly his alleged trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to mask those associations.

In 1974, a letter surfaced that purportedly was written by Lee Harvey Oswald on November 1, 1963, and addressed to a Mr. Hunt, requesting that "we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else". The Committee is attempting to identify the handwriting in the letter and to determine just who "Mr. Hunt" is.

The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before November 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of 1963, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby.

The Committee has received uncorroborated information that in 1959 Ruby traveled to Cuba and visited Santos Trafficante in jail. Trafficante was associated with John Roselli and Sam Giancana, both of whom visited him in jail in 1959. According to a witness, Ruby and Roselli had meetings in Miami several months prior to the assassination. During this period Trafficante was quoted by an active Cuban exile in Miami as saying that Kennedy was going to be "hit". Trafficante is, at present, alleged to be a major organized crime figure from Tampa, Florida, and was reportedly the organized crime coordinator of the CIA-sponsored efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro. On March 16, 1977, Trafficante appeared before the Select Committee on Assassinations pursuant to a subpoena. Invoking his constitutional privileges, he refused to answer questions relating to his involvement with the CIA, his participation in anti-Castro assassination plots, knowledge he had prior to November 22, 1963, that President Kennedy was going

to be assassinated, and his association with Robert Maheu, who testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to his own participation in anti-Castro assassination attempts.

On January 27, 1964, members of the Warren Commission met in Executive Session to discuss evidence which had surfaced indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was an undercover FBI informant at the time of the assassination. Specifically, the evidence indicated that Oswald was employed by the FBI from September of 1962 up until the assassination at a salary of \$200 a month. His FBI number was allegedly either 172 or 179. The evidence came from two independent sources, but the Commission did not investigate the matter and simply accepted a statement by J. Edgar Hoover that Oswald was not an informant for the FBI.

Recently, an FBI informant advised the Committee that he had seen an FBI agent and Lee Harvey Oswald meeting together on numerous occasions in various New Orleans bars. The informant states that he had previously denied seeing Oswald and the agent together because he was threatened by the agent. The agent has denied the informant's charge.

A witness who was an FBI security code clerk in the New Orleans field office from 1961-1966 alleges that the FBI sent a teletype to all of its offices five days before the assassination, warning of a reported conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas on November 22-23. The witness further states that the teletype disclosed that a militant revolutionary group was to be involved in the assassination. The FBI has denied sending such a teletype.

The Committee has information which, if corroborated, establishes links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. Documents in the possession of the FBI, some of which are in the public domain, indicate that the Bureau destroyed relevant evidence and proffered misleading statements to the Warren Commission. Our analysis of the investigative procedures of Federal agencies is a potential subject of legislative action by our Committee and the Congress.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE ABOVE, ASK YOURSELF A QUESTION. (I.E. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT THESE AREAS OF INQUIRY WERE NEVER PUBLISHED OR BROADCASTED ANYWHERE?? CAN IT BE TRUTHFULLY SAID THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE NOT NEWSWORTHY OR IMPORTANT?? CERTAINLY, THESE WERE HIGHLY/MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH THE MEDIA SHOULD HAVE REPORTED OUT! THAT THEY DID NOT, IS, IN A WORD, DESPICABLE!!! BUT, THE, THE ENTIRE MEDIA HAS EITHER OVERTLY LIED, AND/OR SUPPRESSED THE TRUTH FROM THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY SINCE THESE ASSASSINATIONS OCCURRED. THAT IS THE BASIC REASON I PRODUCED AND HOSTED MY OWN MANHATTAN CABLE-TV WEEKLY, HOURLY SHOW CALLED, "ASSASSINATION USA", WHICH FEATURED SEVERAL GUEST EXPERTS LIKE MARK LANE, CYRIL E. WECET, RICHARD A. SPRAGUE, RICHARD E. SPRAGUE, RUSH HARP, SYLVIA MEAGHER, JERRY POLICOFF AND OTHERS, SO AS TO COUNTER THE MEDIA MYTHOLOGY BY PRESENTING THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE CASES. I HAVE 7 OF THESE MOST INFORMATIVE HOURLY SHOWS ON VIDEOTAPES AND AM SELLING ALL 7 SHOWS, (7 HOURLY SHOWS), FOR THE LOW COST OF ONLY \$105. many of my subscribers have ordered them and have called them "THE BEST SHOWS EVER ON THESE CASES. I IMMODESTLY AGREE WITH THEIR ASSESSMENT. IF ORDERING THESE 7 TV SHOWS, WRITE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: TED GANDOLFO... 1214 FIRST AVENUE... NEW YORK, N.Y... 10021. Thank you very much. YOU WON'T, AT ALL, BE DISAPPOINTED WITH THEM.

T.G.AUTHOR-

House Select Committee on Assassinations Nondisclosure Agreement

I, Richard E. Sprague, in consideration for being employed by or engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, or any Member thereof, do hereby make the representations and accept the obligations set forth below as conditions precedent for my employment or engagement, or for my continuing employment or engagement, with the Select Committee, the United States House of Representatives, or the United States Congress.

1. I have read the Rules of the Select Committee, and I hereby agree to be bound by them and by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

2. I hereby agree never to divulge, publish or reveal by words, conduct or otherwise, any testimony given before the Select Committee in executive session (including the name of any witness who appeared or was summoned to appear before the Select Committee in executive session), any classifiable and properly classified information (as defined in 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(1)), or any information pertaining to intelligence sources or methods as designated by the Director of Central Intelligence, or any confidential information that is received by the Select Committee or that comes into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee, to any person not a member of the Select Committee or its staff or the personal staff representative of a Committee Member unless authorized in writing by the Select Committee, or, after the Select Committee's termination, by such manner as the House of Representatives may determine or, in the absence of a determination by the House, in such manner as the Agency or Department from which the information originated may determine. I further agree not to divulge, publish or reveal by words, conduct or otherwise, any other information which is received by the Select Committee or which comes into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee, for the duration of the Select Committee's existence.

3. I hereby agree that any material that is based upon or may include information that I hereby pledge not to disclose, and that is contemplated for publication by me will, prior to discussing it with or showing it to any publishers, editors or literary agents, be submitted to the Select Committee to determine whether said material contains any information that I hereby pledge not to disclose. The Chairman of the Select Committee shall consult with the Director of Central Intelligence for the purpose of the Chairman's determination as to whether or not the material contains information that I pledge not to disclose. I further agree to take no steps toward publication until authorized in writing by the Select Committee, or after its termination, by such manner as the House of Representatives

THIS
AGREEMENT
IS FOR
LIFE!

See
underlined

may determine, or in the absence of a determination by the House, in such manner as the Agency or Department from which the information originated may determine.

4. I hereby agree to familiarize myself with the Select Committee's security procedures, and provide at all times the required degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure for all information and materials that come into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee.

5. I hereby agree to immediately notify the Select Committee of any attempt by any person not a member of the Select Committee staff to solicit information from me that I pledge not to disclose.

6. I hereby agree to immediately notify the Select Committee if I am called upon to testify or provide information to the proper authorities that I pledge not to disclose. I will request that my obligation to respond is established by the Select Committee, or after its termination, by such manner as the House of Representatives may determine, before I do so.

7. I hereby agree to surrender to the Select Committee upon demand by the Chairman or upon my separation from the Select Committee staff, any material, including any classified information or information pertaining to intelligence sources or methods as designated by the Director of Central Intelligence, which comes into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee. I hereby acknowledge that all documents acquired by me in the course of my employment are and remain the property of the United States.

8. I understand that any violation of the Select Committee Rules, security procedures or this agreement shall constitute grounds for dismissal from my current employment.

9. I hereby assign to the United States Government all rights, title and interest in any and all royalties, remunerations and emoluments that have resulted or may result from any divulgence, publication or revelation in violation of this agreement.

10. I understand and agree that the United States Government may choose to apply, prior to any unauthorized disclosure by me, for a court order prohibiting disclosure. Nothing in this agreement constitutes a waiver on the part of the United States of the right to prosecute for any statutory violation. Nothing in this agreement constitutes a waiver on my part of any defenses I may otherwise have in any civil or criminal proceedings.

11. I have read the provisions of the Espionage Laws, Sections 793, 794 and 798, Title 18, United States Code, and of Section 783, Title 50, United States Code, and I am aware that unauthorized disclosure of certain classified information may subject me to prosecution. I have read Section 1001, Title 18, United States Code, and I am aware that the making of a false statement herein is punishable as a felony. I have also read Executive Order 11652, and the implementing National Security Council directive of May 17, 1972, relating to the protection of classified information.

12. Unless released in writing from this agreement or any portion thereof by the Select Committee, I recognize that all the conditions and obligations imposed on me by this agreement apply during my Committee employment or engagement and continue to apply after the relationship is terminated.

13. No consultant shall indicate, divulge or acknowledge, without written permission of the Select Committee, the fact that the Select Committee has engaged him or her by contract as a consultant until after the Select Committee has terminated.

14. In addition to any rights for criminal prosecution or for injunctive relief the United States Government may have for violation of this agreement, the United States Government may file a civil suit in an appropriate court for damages as a consequence of a breach of this agreement. The costs of any civil suit brought by the United States for breach of this agreement, including court costs, investigative expenses, and reasonable attorney fees, shall be borne by any defendant who loses such suit. In any civil suit for damages successfully brought by the United States Government for breach of this agreement, actual damages may be recovered, or, in the event that such actual damages may be impossible to calculate, liquidated damages in an amount of \$5,000 shall be awarded as a reasonable estimate for damages to the credibility and effectiveness of the investigation.

15. I hereby agree that in any suit by the United States Government for injunctive or monetary relief pursuant to the terms of this agreement, personal jurisdiction shall obtain and venue shall lie in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, or in any other appropriate United States District Court in which the United States may elect to bring suit. I further agree that the law of the District of Columbia shall govern the interpretation and construction of this agreement.

16. Each provision of this agreement is severable. If a court should find any part of this agreement to be unenforceable, all other provisions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

I make this agreement without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and I agree that it may be used by the Select Committee in carrying out its duty to protect the security of information provided to it.

Date: July 19, 1977

Richard E. Sprague

I am submitting a list of material and information which has already been given to the committee, or which I intend to give the committee in the near future. I intend to publish some of this information.

LOUIS STOKES, Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations

NOTE:

This insidious, odious but very CLEVER document is EXACTLY HOW the C.I.A. & F.B.I. conceived of HOW they would ENTIRELY CONTROL AND SUPPRESS the most crucially important evidence of massive conspiracies in both the JFK and MLK assassinations from being divulged to the citizens of this country, by forcing EVERY SINGLE member of the Committee, their investigators, their staff, consultants, witnesses, etc, etc, One must admit that it was a cleverly devised scheme, although in its wake it left many truthful questions regarding these two cases unresolved and unanswered to the American people, indeed, people of the world. • Our utmost thanks go to the CIA & FBI and especially to chief counsel G. Robert Blakey for this, yet another, travesty of justice and information, and total suppressions of same.

"THE TRUTH, THOUGH CRUSHED TO EARTH, SHALL RISE AGAIN."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

- .S. Our sincerest thanks to Richard E. Sprague, former consultant to the H. SCOA. We should all applaud his efforts to providing this document and THE TRUTH to the people of our land.....Ted Gandelfe

Mr. Robert Blakey
 Chief Counsel
 Select Committee On Assassinations
 House Of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

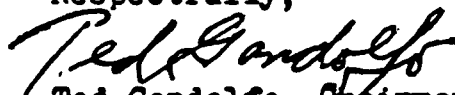
Ted Gandolfo
 Chairman: Assassination
 Information Committee
 1214-1st Avenue
 New York, N.Y. 10021
 Phone 212-288 1596

July 29, 1977

Dear Mr. Blakey,

As you requested during our phone conversation yesterday, I am sending you this letter, to further inform you of my offer to the Select Committee On Assassinations. As a private researcher since November 22, 1963 on the JFK assassination, I have personally compiled what is generally acknowledged to be the most all-inclusive, chronologically listed tape-recorded library in the world on the JFK case. These include ALL aspects of everything related to this case, witness testimony, earliest media reportage, subsequent media reportage, all aspects of prior investigations such as Warren Commission, Garrison's, Senate/Congressional hearings, personal interviews conducted by myself of crucial personages, etc, etc, in short, everything related to the JFK assassination. These tapes number more than four thousand (4,000) hours in all. I also have an extensive printed file on this case as well. I know these would prove to be an invaluable asset to you and your committee in your quest for truth in this investigation you have undertaken, an investigation I have continuously urged be initiated to the many people I have spoken to through the years on more than 240 radio and TV shows I have appeared on across this country. At my request, I have received many letters in support of the original constitution of your committee and, subsequently, for the reconstitution and adequate funding and have sent these to various Congressmen across the country to influence their voting for it. I think it not too immodest to suggest that I have been, and remain, one of the best friends your committee has ever had. In this spirit, I am offering any or all of my material to the Select Committee to assist in securing the truth you are seeking. I will be awaiting your reply. Also enclosed find a recent article by myself.

Respectfully,



Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: AIC

-SEE NEXT PAGE-

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN
 RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
 THOMAS BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. DOODS, CONN.
 HAROLD E. FORD, TEXAS
 FLOYD J. PITTMAN, IND.
 ROBERT W. COLEMAN, PA.
 SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
 STEWART B. MC KINNEY, CONN.
 CHARLES THOMAS, MISS.
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MISS.

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4634

August 2, 1977

Mr. Ted Gandolfo
 Chairman: AIC
 1214--1st Avenue
 New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Mr. Gandolfo:

Professor G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director for the Select Committee on Assassinations, has asked me to respond to your recent letter to him concerning your offer of assistance to our Committee.

It is very kind and generous of you to offer to our staff all materials you have compiled over the years which relate to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I assure you that we are indeed interested in the many tape recordings to which you refer in your correspondence, and I anticipate that in the near future, my Deputy Chief Researcher for the Kennedy Task Force, will be in touch with you to arrange for an appropriate meeting.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your support and interest in these investigations.

Best regards,


 DONOVAN L. GAY
 Chief Researcher

P.S. I never was communicated with in ANY way after this, regarding my tapes, although I asked Blakey, by phone about it, he declined to answer my question of whether or not the Committee wanted any/or all of them, etc. ad-nauseum. T.G.

March 10, 1987

On December 12, 1977, Richard A. Sprague and Richard E. Sprague

guested on my cable-TV show, "Assassination USA." Near the conclusion of the show, I asked the former chief counsel, A. Sprague, "Is there anything of your own personal knowledge, while you were chief counsel of the Committee, or perhaps now, that leads you to the belief that they" (the HSCA) "have already reached conclusions, whether now or long ago, which are synonymous with the governmental, we maintain fraudulent, conclusions relating to these two cases?"

A- "It is clear to me that there are tremendous areas that merit a thorough, full, impartial investigation. To answer your question specifically, Ted, I have been told by a number of people that the present investigation does have already...has indicated, that they intend to come out with a conclusion that there is no conspiracy involved in the President Kennedy assassination and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and they are going through the motions of trying to fortify a final statement that says that. Now, whether in fact that is so or not, I do not know. All I can do is say that that is what I have been told by a number of people."

Now, with the knowledge that Mr. Sprague was FORCED to resign, due mainly by the CIA controlled news media, in April, 1977, which was only 7 months after the Committee was established, and FIFTEEN MONTHS before it had completed it's "investigations", then one can obviously see that the HSCA's probe practically began, as did the Warren Commission, with the pre-conception of Lee Oswald's sole guilt. Ad nauseum. Now, then, would they have been able to conduct a full, complete and honest investigation of the case, even were they so inclined? Of course, they were not, and DID NOT, as this tome adequately proves. It was NEVER their intention to divulge the truth to the people of this country. It really is all very simple: The CIA and President Kennedy were on a direct collision course for several reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, JFK had begun the process of dismantling the WAR MACHINE, by initially seeking a normalization of relationships with, not only Russia but Cuba as well. Quite obviously, this would have inexorably resulted in the loss of trillions of dollars spent on armaments of every conceivable kind. That was the PRIMARY reason for his execution. Secondly, he had incurred the wrath of the anti-Castro Cubans, when he refused to provide air-cover in the Bay Of Pigs fiasco, inflaming them to action against Kennedy on November 22, 1963, as Jim Garrison's evidence proves, since it is a fact that one of these men, Emilio Santana, has admitted to a New Orleans Grand Jury that he fired one of the shots at JFK that day. This, of course, was never mentioned in ANY newspaper or TV/radio station. Thirdly, Kennedy had come to recognize the total immorality of the CIA and told his personal aide, Kenneth O'Donnell that he was going to, "get the CIA and break it into a million pieces and scatter the pieces to the winds." Those are the primary reasons he was killed..BY THE CIA, which, naturally, covered up the crime by destroying evidence, manufacturing false evidence, and withholding the truthful evidence it had from both the Warren Commission and, later, from the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Of course, the HSCA had obtained evidence, especially from Jim Garrison, PROVING CIA direct involvement in the crime, but, through their employee, chief counsel Robert Blakey, completely suppressed ALL of it, which is disclosed in this book for the first time ever. As you will later read, I call for the complete abolishment of the CIA. Certainly we do need an intelligence-gathering organization in this country. But we don't need MURDER SQUADS who find it feasible to kill not only foreign leaders who oppose their views and policies, but also, proveably now, kill the President of the United States. For it remains an odious fact that, in our name, the CIA supports dictatorships all across the world. There is not a fascistic government in this world who could survive for a single moment without the direct assistance of the CIA. And there is not a peoples of this world, yearning to be free who are not suffering from the abuses inflicted upon them by the CIA, who, as I mentioned, in our name, commit some of the most despicable illegalities, including murder, all across the globe!! The HSCA found it necessary, I strongly feel by direct instructions of the CIA, to classify much of the information it obtained, for no less than 50 years. Remember, the charter of the Committee was to DIVULGE, NOT SUPPRESS, everything it learned relating to the JFK & MLK assassinations. They opted NOT to do so, quite obviously now because of the conclusive evidence it had of direct CIA involvement in the JFK assassination and, I have also learned, direct involvement of the FBI in the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Obviously, the classic question remains: "Why hide ANYTHING if there's nothing to hide" (with apologies to Ed Tatro). So the totally uncontrollable power of the CIA, which murdered the President Of The United States, as well as foreign leaders, which completely thwarted Jim Garrison's investigation of the crime, which controls, on a most massive scale, the ENTIRE news media of this country which, through the CIA, has fed us lie after lie concerning these murders for more than 23 years in the JFK case and 19 years in the King case, continues to thrive and remains totally unaccountable for it's heinous atrocities.

FEBRUARY 3, 1978:

Today, Mark Lane called me up and told me very disheartening news he had just learned about. The most relevant dialogue follows:

ML- The Select Committee is hopelessly destroyed.

TG- Is hopelessly destroyed?

ML- Taken over by the FBI and CIA.

TG- They are taken over by the FBI and CIA?

ML- Is that true?

ML- Yes, I mean it's just...they just fired Bob Lehner-that was the final blow.

TG- Robert Lehner was fired today?

ML- Well, very recently.

TG- What leads you to the belief that they have been taken over?

ML- They fired Donovan Gay, the chief researcher of both the Kennedy and King cases, and the reason given to him was the CIA would prefer that he longer be there. They fired Bob

no

Lehner and they're replacing him with a Department Of Justice lawyer who has passed an FBI and CIA loyalty test. All the employees are being screened by the FBI and the CIA. In other words, the FBI and the CIA are investigating the Select Committee instead of the other way around. I can tell you this. They (HSCA) have not subpoenaed a single document from the FBI and the CIA, not one document has been subpoenaed, and Blakey is involved in, I'm convinced, in a major sellout.

TG- But how can they go against what Garrison has told me twice, that they just can't do it because there's too many investigators there who will scream out...

ML- I'll tell you about those investigators. They have uncovered absolutely incredible information on their own...incredible stuff, and if anybody reveals it they go to jail.

TG- Why?

ML- Because of the statement (non-disclosure agreement) they signed. That's how they're silencing them.

The next day, Lane held a press conference at the Los Angeles Free Press with this information. Not one word was ever published or mentioned anywhere, predictably, in the entire news media. The following day, February 5th, I did 3 radio shows about this. (KGO, WMCA, and WOR). I also called CBS radio news, CBS-TV news, NBC TV & radio news, and ABC-TV and radio news. By using 3 TVs, 3 radios and 6 recorders, I was able to determine that, again, as with the case of Lane, not a single WORD was broadcast or televised on any of the above-mentioned network stations, not one!! Need I say more about the media of this country? There was, however, ample news reportage of rigged bullfights, the skiing conditions in Vermont, and assorted, varied trivia which the media found worthy of reportage.

-Again, ad nauseum!-

FEBRUARY 6, 1978:

I called the Select Committee asking to speak to Blakey. He wasn't available, so left my name and phone number, and 2 hours later, he called. The verbatim talk follows:

B- Hi, this is Robert Blakey.

TG- Hello, how are you?

B- Fine.

TG- Allright, I did a TV show with Richard A. Sprague, former chief counsel of your Committee and he told me and fellow guests Richard E. Sprague and Rush Harp, he told me something rather startling-that he had been told that the Committee had long ago concluded, reached conclusions which were to be that there was no conspiracy involved in either case under investigation. Is that true, Mr. Blakey?

B- I have no comment to make on anything he said.

TG- You have no comment to make even on that?

B- Nope.

TG- Uh-huh- will you be releasing a report at the end of this year on the Committee's work or evidence thus far?

B- The resolution requires us to do it as soon as practical.

TG- Yeah- Mr. Blakey, I just want to mention something. As far as I'm concerned, I've heard stories that there is evidence that there WERE conspiracies in BOTH the JFK and King cases. I won't say who said that to me, but I've heard that you're going to suppress ALL of that information and that you will conclude NO CONSPIRACY reports. Is that true?

B- No comment to make on that also.

TG- Again, no comment, right?

B- Nope.

TG- Uh-huh, well, allright, look, um, I also heard that you're firing some of the staff members, and you fired Bob Lehner and Donovan Gay because of their disagreements with you in respect to the evidence in these cases, is THAT true?

B- I can't comment on that either.

TG- Uh huh, O.K., I also heard that you brought over to the CIA a top secret memo that you promised not to divulge to ANY intelligence agency, and you made copies and sent them right over to the Central Intelligence Agency. Is THAT true?

B- I can't comment on that either. Look, I signed a non-disclosure agreement that means I cannot say anything.

TG- No comment all the way down the line, right? I'll tell you something. You know, you're um, you're, you're, I, I'm going to expose your ass everywhere in this country, and I'm going to alert everyone about what you're doing, that you're a coverup artist par-excellence, and you're not going to get away with it because we're going to get the truth no matter WHAT you're doing there, and I just want you to know that we know that you're a low-life, son-of-a-bitch. Goodbye!!

Well, I trust that I have kept my word to Blakey by the facts contained herein.

Jim Garrison calls me up today. The relevant verbatim conversation follows:

- G- What's happening now is the complete takeover of the Congress by the intelligence agencies.
 JM- Yes, exactly.
 G- Exactly, and nothing short of that. But what Blakey is also doing, Jim, he is not going to ask for further fundings.
 JM- Oh, that's a...he's a sinister son-of-a-bitch.
 G- Oh he's a bastard.
 JM- Their investigators have made progress beyond their wildest dreams.
 G- Well, I called Stokes's office- he's supposed to get back to me.
 JM- Stokes is supposed to be allright...
 G- Yep, and Fauntroy too.
 JM- Has Blakey fooled them?
 G- I don't know, that's why I left the message with Stokes's secretary, the whole message of what Blakey's doing, and I told her that on several radio shows I've done now, I have already called for the immediate firing of Blakey as a coverup artist, par excellence, on that Committee who is suppressing the basic evidence for which he was assigned to investigate, and secure, and provide to the American people.
 JM- You can tell those Congressmen you talk to that while I didn't feel free to be quoted, as far as the newspapers are concerned, that in your conversations with me I made it clear that the investigators that have been down here have made tremendous progress and they have long since confirmed the involvement of a conspiracy, and I have not understood why Blakey grew more and more silent, but they are welcome to call me if they want me to give them some examples of conspiracy, of the kind of evidence that I've turned over to them, to their investigators.

Whereupon, I called Congresswoman Yvonne Burke, a member of the Committee:

- YB- Hello-
 TG- Hello, Ms. Burke?
 YB- How are you?
 TG- Fine, nice to talk to you. I'm calling from New York city. My name is Ted Gandolfo. I'm a 14 year researcher. First, may I commend you for what I've just heard about in reference to your being one of only 3 people who are dissenting from what chief counsel Robert Blakey is insidiously and nefariously doing there.
 YB- What's that?
 TG- That he is concealing the evidence which has been accrued...
 YB- I don't know anything about that.
 TG- Well, I do. I've talked to Mark Lane and Jim Garrison, former New Orleans District Attorney, and to several other researchers. I've done, also, a few radio shows on this and I'm going to do another one tonight.
 YB- I know nothing about this.
 TG- Then may I just...I understand that..I'd just like to discuss something with you. I spoke to Mark Lane Saturday night, who told me what Robert Blakey is doing.
 YB- Did what?
 TG- He's fired Several investigators there because they were disagreeing with what he is doing.
 YB- You better tell me who they are before you get...
 TG- Well, Bob Lehner is one of them, who headed the King task force. Donovan Gay resigned because of his...
 YB- You better be careful about that one. And who's the other one?
 TG- Donovan Gay resigned!!
 YB- Who's the third person? If it's those 2 people, be very careful because they were not terminated by Blakey.
 TG- Who were they terminated by, the intelligence agencies!!
 YB- No.
 TG- Well, that's what I heard.
 YB- Somebody's feeding you some bad information.
 TG- Well, look, the point is that Blakey is covering up the evidence which has been gleaned by that Committee, OK?
 YB- What I'd like you to do is if you will get to me...
 TG- The point is that we know that evidence has been turned over to the Committee which proves beyond any question that there were conspiracies in the King and Kennedy assassinations

and we know that Blakey is simply covering it up and will come out with a conclusion of NO conspiracies because of the fact that he is an intelligence man who has been infiltrated into the Committee by the intelligence agencies, he is turning over documents to the CIA-

B- What did he turn over?

G- He turned over a top secret document which proves that Oswald had intelligence ties.

B- Why did he turn it over?

G- You'll have to ask him that question. He turned it over to the CIA.

B- Was the document in English?

G- I don't know, I just...

B- Let me tell you-there are some vicious misrepresentations that are being circulated. Let me tell you about Bob Lehner. Many of us had serious questions of Bob Lehner's competence. We've had questions all along. Now, I don't want to say anything against Bob Lehner.

G- You just DID!

B- But the whole question about Bob Lehner has been fully aired by the Committee. Now, let me tell you something about Donovan Gay. Donovan is a personal friend of mine. I would never allow Donovan to be the victim of any circumstance,...

G- I just talked to Jim Garrison. He said that as a result of the Committee investigators who have secured his information and evidence, he said that they were overwhelmed with their feelings that there was definitely a conspiracy in the JFK assassination. That information, from what he said, and from what other sources told me, will be suppressed, suppressed by Robert Blakey! Don't you think it's incumbent upon you to find out if this is true or not?

B- You know that every time we come up for funding, someone feeds something in for someone to make an attack, did you notice that? I hope you're not a part of that.

G- Well, you can't mess me because I've attempted to secure the truth for 14 years now. Would you like to discuss the evidence Blakey has received, proving CIA involvement to kill Kennedy, that he received from Jim Garrison?

B- Yes, I'd like to do that.

G- OK, good- I'll give you Garrison's phone number. It's _____ after he tells you of this evidence that Blakey is suppressing, then I call upon you to let your colleagues on the Committee know about this evidence, and then you should immediately fire Blakey!!

B- All-right, I'll call Mr. Garrison soon.

G- Hopefully, very soon.

B- Yes, well, I will. I've got to catch a plane now.

G- Thank you very much, Miss Burke, goodbye.

As you might guess by now, Garrison never received any call from Yvonne Burke, or other members of the Committee I talked to about this at the time. Since that is so, can there be ANY doubt that this was, indeed, a coverup Committee at work?? Enough said!!

ON FEBRUARY 10, 1978, JIM GARRISON, BY PHONE, TOLD ME OF SOME OF THE MASSIVE EVIDENCE OF AN ENORMOUS CONSPIRACY IN THE JFK ASSASSINATION, (QUOTES FROM THIS CONVERSATION WERE PRINTED IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE..ARTICLE BY MYSELF ENTITLED, THE HSCOA COVERUP). UPON HEARING THIS EVIDENCE FROM GARRISON, I CALLED CHIEF COUNSEL ROBERT BLAKEY ABOUT IT. WE HAD A 15 MINUTE PHONE CONVERSATION, WHICH I TAPED, DURING WHICH I ASKED HIM IF MR. GARRISON AND/OR MYSELF WERE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR THERE AS WITNESSES. HE SAID WE WEREN'T. I ASKED HIM FOR HIS PERMISSION TO ALLOW ME AND GARRISON TO DO SO. HE SAID, "WRITE ME A LETTER". I IMMEDIATELY DID SO AND WROTE TO GARRISON TO DO THE SAME. HE SINCE HAS TOLD ME HE HAD DONE SO THEN. MY LETTER IS REPRODUCED BELOW:

Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel
House Select Committee On Assassinations
U.S. House Of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
20515

TED GANDOLFO, CHAIRMAN, ASSASSINATION
INFORMATION COMMITTEE
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone: (212) 288-1596
February 10, 1978

Dear Mr. Blakey,

As you instructed me to do during our phone conversation earlier today, I am writing you requesting that I appear before your Committee, along with Jim Garrison, to present you and the Committee, personally, evidence in printed and oral form, which belsters my/our evidence that we feel proves that President John F. Kennedy was murdered by elements and personages connected with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. All I ask is that you/ the Committee pay for my round trip flight to and from Washington, D.C. as I cannot afford it at the present time. I am sure that Jim Garrison can and will pay for his trip himself.

May I assure you beforehand that the evidence I will present is, at the very least, prime facie, and will command your attention so that you will then subpoena corroborating materials and documents from the C.I.A. which, I feel strongly, will attest to the validity of my/our assertions in this matter. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Ted Gandolfo
Ted Gandolfo, AIC

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS LETTER, NOR GARRISON'S, WAS NEVER ANSWERED BY BLAKEY & CO. YET ANOTHER COVERUP OF FACTUAL EVIDENCE TRUTHFULLY IMPLICATING THE C.I.A. IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. IF NOT MINE, THEY KNEW WHAT GARRISON'S EVIDENCE WAS TO THIS EFFECT AND WERE AFRAID TO CALL HIM, ESPECIALLY, AS A WITNESS BEFORE THEM. TO HAVE DONE SO WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BURST THEIR COVERUP BALLOON!

193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, NY 10530

February 10, 1978

Mr. Louis Stokes
Chairman, Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

As I am sure you know, I signed a non disclosure agreement for the Select Committee, given to me on July 19, 1977 by Robert Blakey. Not being a lawyer, I did not really appreciate some of the provisions of that agreement at the time I signed it, even though some things in it seemed strange to me.

In the last few months I have gone over the agreement several times, with particular attention to those strange portions. The more I re-read the agreement, the more puzzled I have become.

I was finally triggered into writing you this letter by a conversation I had with Richard A. Sprague. As you may recall I helped him and Bob Tanenbaum from November 1976 forward with the photographic evidence in the JFK case, and several other areas derived from my relationship with Jim Garrison and the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. I had no written agreement with the Committee at that time and did not ask for compensation for the work I had been doing. I had signed no non disclosure agreement and such an agreement had never been mentioned.

The first time I had any idea that the Committee would want to pay me for my assistance was some time after Dick Sprague resigned, when Mr. Blakey approached me about it through Bob Tanenbaum, shortly before Bob resigned. My recent meeting with Dick Sprague naturally led to discussion about my continuing work for the Committee. He raised the subject of the non disclosure agreement signed by each staff member, saying that he would never have enforced such a document while he was chief counsel because he believes it gives the CIA and other agencies too much power to control the activities of the Committee. It was because of that statement that I read the agreement again in the light of what he said.

I know that you had a lot of faith in Richard A. Sprague and did not personally want him to resign. For that reason I'm writing to you rather than Mr. Blakey, seeking answers to my questions.

Enclosed is a copy of the agreement with my signature. I have circled on it the paragraphs in question, and underlined the key words. My questions, Mr. Stokes are as follows:

1. Are paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 inserted for the purpose of giving the CIA power over the Select Committee to investigate the CIA's

role in the assassinations or the cover up crimes following the assassinations of President Kennedy or Dr. King? I believe those paragraphs could be so interpreted, especially if each committee member and each staff member signed a similar agreement.

2. If the purposes of paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 are not as questioned above, then how can the Select Committee, its staff or its consultants, ever discover whether the CIA was involved in the assassinations or whether the CIA, as I maintain, is still involved in covering up the conspiracies?

For example, paragraph 3 states that you as chairman, shall consult with the Director of Central Intelligence—to determine whether or not the material I might receive contains information that I pledge not to disclose.

Assuming that all committee staff people signed that paragraph, it would seem to me that you would really be hamstrung in investigating the CIA's possible role. Your staff could not be working with any documents or other materials pointing toward CIA agents' involvement in the assassinations, without you personally having to show those documents to the Director of Central Intelligence and to obtain his agreement to disclose the information to the public.

The CIA Director has the power of judging what can be released. Obviously, anything incriminating to the CIA, especially higher level people who may have been involved, would be judged unreleasable.

None of this would take on the significance that it does, were it not for my belief that the CIA itself has continued to cover up the original conspiracy and that several CIA agents or contract employees carried out the murder.

3. Is paragraph 12 really logical, or even legal? Can an agreement with a body be extended ad infinitum after the body has dissolved?
4. Paragraph 14 bothers me. It seems to say that I agree to allow the government to sue me and to bear the expenses of such a suit. Is it really legal to ask me to agree to be sued as a condition of my consulting contract? Couldn't the government sue me and collect expenses anyway if I did something wrong, without such a clause? Paragraph 16 seems to anticipate that Paragraph 14 may not stand up in court. (Or some other paragraph.)

I want to make it clear that my concerns in this matter are not related to any obligation I may have. Rather, I am concerned about the purposes of those clauses in the agreement, as they affect the investigations. I believe every staff member signed them.

I would appreciate hearing directly from you on these questions Mr. Stokes, rather than referring this letter to Mr. Blakey.

Yours sincerely,

Richard E. Sprague

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
 YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.
 HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.
 FLOYD J. PITTMAN, IND.
 ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
 STEWART B. MC KINNEY, CONN.
 CHARLES THONE, NEBR.
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

Select Committee on Assassinations**U.S. House of Representatives**

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

March 2, 1978

Mr. Robert Trubey
 2336 Divisadero Street
 San Francisco, CA 94115

Dear Mr. Trubey:

Chairman Stokes has requested that I respond to your letter concerning the non-disclosure agreement in effect for the staff of the Select Committee.

It is not nor has it ever been the intent of the Select Committee to withhold evidence from the public pertaining to its investigations. The non-disclosure agreement does not prevent information from being disclosed. It does provide that the timing of any disclosure of information be determined by the Select Committee, or after the Select Committee's termination by the House of Representatives, or if the House should fail to act, by the agency, or department from which the information originated.

The types of information which are subject to these release provisions include: (1) Testimony given in executive session, (2) Any classifiable and properly classified information, (3) Information pertaining to intelligence sources or methods as designated by the Director of Central Intelligence and (4) Confidential (sensitive) information received by the Select Committee.

While other information which a staff member receives may not be divulged for the duration of the Select Committee's existence, it may be divulged at any subsequent time.

* THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE!! SEE PAGE 173, PARAGRAPH # 2- T.G., AUTHOR.

LESLIE STOKES, CHAIRMAN
 RICHARDSON PREYER, N.E.
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
 YVONNE BRATHWAITE BAKER, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. COBB, CONN.
 HAROLD E. FORD, TEXAS
 FLOYD J. PITTMAN, IND.
 ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.
 SAMUEL L. BEVINE, MISS.
 STEWART B. MC KINNEY, CONN.
 CHARLES THOMAS, MISS.
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MISS.

(202) 225-6834

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 7, 1978

Ms. Leona R. Willis
 345 Arguello Blvd., #302
 San Francisco, CA 94118

Dear Ms. Willis:

Chairman Stokes has asked that I reply to your letter concerning the public release of information developed during the Select Committee's investigations.

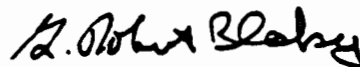
Please be advised that it is the Committee's intention that once the preliminary evidence-gathering phase of the investigations has been completed, a public presentation will be made of all the evidence which has been gathered and which has been corroborated and which is felt is credible and in no way defames any person. This evidence will be presented in open public hearings.

At the completion of its work, the Committee intends to present to the American people the type of credible, responsible, and professional report to which they are entitled.

When I took this job, I had a reputation for independence and integrity. Nothing is worth losing the reality behind that reputation. I do not know from what source you obtained the information on which your comments are based, but I can assure you that the work of the Committee, too, will be characterized by independence and integrity.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Select Committee.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey
 Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:thn

P S THIS IS A COPY OF ONE OF HUNDREDS OF LETTERS SENT TO ME AFTER I IMPELORED ALL LISTENERS TO WRITE TO BLAKEY & CO., CHARGING HIM WITH A COVERUP. ON ONE LETTER, IN ARCHIVES IN WISCONSIN, BLAKEY WROTE, "NO COVERUP IS IN PROGRESS" HE HAS NO CONCIENCE!!

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.
 WALTER E. FA. WYBRY, D.C.
 VIVIANE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.
 HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.
 FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.
 ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
 STEWART S. MCKINNEY, CONN.
 CHARLES THONE, NEBR.
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

MAR 16 1978

MARCH 16, 1978-T G.

Mr. Richard E. Sprague
 193 Pinewood Road
 Hartsdale, New York 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:

In response to your letter of February 10, 1978 concerning the non-disclosure agreement which you signed with the Committee, I wish to first remind you that the agreement was explicitly explained to you provision by provision by Mr. Blakey, and that you were given the opportunity to ask any questions that you desired prior to your signing the agreement. I want to assure you that the intent of the agreement is not to prevent information from ultimately being disclosed to the American public. The non-disclosure agreement only governs the timing of disclosure of information to the public. In response to your specific questions:

I. Paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 obviously are not for the purpose of giving the CIA power over the Select Committee to investigate the CIA's role in the assassination. If you read these paragraphs carefully, they clearly provide that the Select Committee, during its existence, will be in full control and have access to all information. The paragraphs do prevent you from disclosing the information, without the authorization of the Select Committee.

Paragraph 3 does state that I, as Chairman, will consult with the Director of Central Intelligence to determine whether or not material contains information which you pledge not to disclose. I, however, retain ultimate authority and I only consult with the Director of Central Intelligence - I am not bound by his opinion.

II. Paragraphs 12 and 14 are indeed legal. Should you have any specific questions concerning the legality of any of the provisions, I suggest you consult your own attorney.

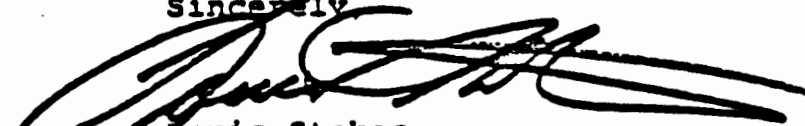
- 2 -

I assure you that the very purpose of the non-disclosure agreement is to give the Select Committee full control over the conduct of the investigation, including the ultimate disclosure of information to the American public. In no manner should it be construed as the Committee being restricted in its investigation by the CIA or any other federal agency or department.

In closing, I remind you of paragraph 13 of the non-disclosure agreement which provides that you may not "indicate, divulge or acknowledge" the fact that you have been retained as a consultant until after the Select Committee has been terminated. I have seen a press release concerning yourself issued by Mr. Altman in conjunction with a new article in Gallery magazine. I note that while you technically did not violate the non-disclosure agreement which you signed, by carefully wording the release to describe the work you had done for the Committee in the past, this is the exact kind of exploitation of a consultant relationship that the Committee desires to avoid during its existence.

If you have any other questions or comments on the non-disclosure agreement, they should be addressed to Mr. Blakey as Chief Counsel.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Louis Stokes, is written over the typed name.

Louis Stokes
Chairman

LS:jwc

HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE SURRENDERS TO INTELLIGENCE FORCES

CHIEF COUNSEL ROBERT BLAKEY IS A "LEGAL HIT MAN FOR ORGANIZED CRIME"
SELECT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN "CAPTURED BY CIA AND FBI"

BY TED GANDOLFOMAY 8, 1978

The Chief Counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, G. Robert Blakey, is, in my opinion, a "legal hit man for organized crime" and he has permitted the Committee to be completely captured by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition, the Select Committee has recently abused a key witness in the Kennedy assassination inquiry so severely that the witness, an elderly man, had broken down and was reduced to tears in the Committee's hearing room. A key reason that the Committee questions witnesses behind closed doors, in primarily "Executive Session", is that the American people would not stand for the Committee's abusive questioning in public. Witnesses have been denied counsel of their choice by the Select Committee and they have also been denied an opportunity to testify in public. The Select Committee on Assassinations has combined the worst of two eras. Unlike the Warren Commission of the 1960's which permitted witnesses to testify in public if they insisted upon that right, the Select Committee adheres to its policy of total secrecy. Unlike Joe McCarthy of the 1950's, the Select Committee does not permit witnesses to be represented by counsel of their choice. I now understand how Doctor Frankenstein felt when he looked up one day and saw the monster he had created begin a rampage.

The key person in the absolute surrender of the Select Committee on Assassinations to the intelligence interests is G. Robert Blakey, its present Chief Counsel. Blakey has had odd and recent connections with organized crime characters. On February 4, 1976, just merely a bit more than seven months before the House Select Committee on Assassinations was constituted, G. Robert Blakey associated himself with a man named Moe Dalitz, one of the early activists with organized crime in America. On that precise date, Blakey, for quite a substantial sum of money, sold his "expertise" to Moe Dalitz as an "expert" in the area of organized crime, which he indeed was, having served on Senator Robert F. Kennedy's Senate panel which was investigating organized crime in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Now, instead of investigating organized crime, G. Robert Blakey had been working on behalf of an organized crime figure in Dalitz. Blakey refuses to disclose how much money he was paid, leaving only that question in doubt. Blakey refers all questions regarding his services to Dalitz to his, Blakey's own personal attorney, the eminent Louis Nizer. Mr. Nizer is ALSO the attorney for Moe Dalitz. For those of you who may not recall, Nizer also wrote the introduction to the Warren Commission

Report in which he stated that only "neurotics" clinging to a "sordid interest" would believe that the Warren Commission Report could be doubted or should be investigated. G. Robert Blakey, Nizer's CLIENT, is now OSTENSIBLY investigating the Warren Commission Report!! Louis Nizer wrote in his Warren Report preface that the issue of the John F. Kennedy assassination was now closed and that only "neurotics" clinging to "pride or a more sordid interest" would refuse to accept the Warren Report's findings.

G. Robert Blakey was recommended for his position as chief counsel of the Select Committee by Assassination Committee member Congressman Christopher Dodd, who had previously been a law partner with indicted former FBI director, L. Patrick Gray. Many of the most frightening and recurring questions which the Kennedy, and later the King assassinations presented were those dealing with the roles of the intelligence organizations. The Church Committee has revealed the criminal excesses of our intelligence agencies, and their close cooperation with organized crime. The original Chief Counsel for the Select Committee on Assassinations, Richard A. Sprague, told me when he guested on my own Manhattan Cable-T.V. "Assassination U.S.A." show recently, that he refused to yield to the demands of the intelligence agencies that he and his entire staff sign "non-disclosure-agreements." Those infamous agreements would have given the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation the authority to DECIDE WHAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE AND EVERYONE WHO WORKED, IN ANY CAPACITY COULD DISCLOSE. Directly after Sprague was FORCED to resign because of the vicious, untruthful attacks upon him by the CIA's "propaganda assets" in the news media, especially in the New York Times, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, among others, G. Robert Blakey QUICKLY ENTERED INTO THOSE AGREEMENTS AND THEN REQUIRED ALL SELECT COMMITTEE PERSONNEL TO SIGN THE AGREEMENTS WHICH PROHIBITED EACH OF THEM, HIMSELF INCLUDED, FROM EVER RELEASING, OR COMMENTING UPON ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO "SUBSTANCE OR PROCEDURE" THAT WAS LEARNED THROUGH CONTACT WITH THE COMMITTEE!!

The Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations of January 25, 1978, submitted with the budget request, states, "All staff members on the Committee have received or are in the process of receiving 'Top Secret' security clearance. The FBI, as an accommodation to the Committee, conducts the background investigations for these security clearances. The Central Intelligence Agency then reviews the background investigations done by the FBI. After consultation with the FBI and CIA, the full Committee makes the determination regarding an individuals security clearance." (AND I'LL BET YOU NEVER READ OR HEARD OF THAT ON ANY RADIO OR TELEVISION STATION ANYWHERE!! IT SIMPLY WAS NEVER REPORTED OUT!!) And so, under Blakey, those very same intelligence agencies which have participated in, at barest minimal, a COVERUP of the facts in these (both) assassinations, as shown by the Church Committee Report, are now charged

with passing on the eligibility of those who would judge their conduct!! Blakey said to one charter staff member, of the several he recently fired: "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were gone." The CIA has not explained how this activity does not violate its charter prohibition against domestic activities.

The Rules Of The Committee, formulated with the assistance of Congressman Don Edwards of the Constitutional Civil Liberties Committee, have been flagrantly violated under the leadership of Chairman of the Select Committee, Louis Stokes and Chief Counsel Blakey. Subpeonaed witness Robert McKeown was not allowed to have his attorney present, was abused, insulted, and threatened, was not allowed a recording or transcript of his testimony, and was not permitted a public hearing. Witness Jerry Ray and James Earl Ray have been told that they may not have an attorney of their choice. Their sister has been told that although she cannot afford an attorney, she will not be provided with counsel.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations must be freed from the stranglehold of the intelligence agencies; it must deal with the conflict of interest presented by Counsel G. Robert Blakey's ties with organized crime and Louis Nizer, staunch defender of the Warren Report, and also with its own violation of the Rules, before it can pursue THE TRUTH about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN
RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.
WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURRE, CALIF.
CHRISTOPHER J. DOUG, CONN.
HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.
FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.
ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.
SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
STEWART B. MCKINNEY, CONN.
CHARLES THONE, NEBR.
HAROLD S. SAWYER, MISS.

194

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

1331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

May 15, 1978

Mr. Richard Sprague
193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, NY 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:

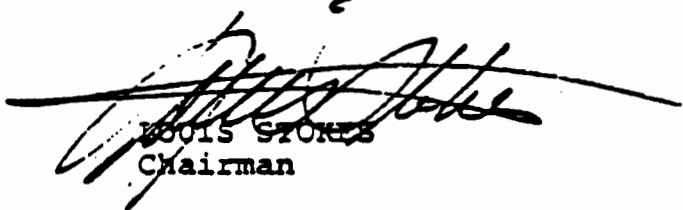
Thank you for your thoughtful letter of April 5
and I hope that you will excuse my delay in responding.

I appreciate your expression of confidence in me
and your reassurance of your continued support. With
regard to the matter of the press release, I understand
your situation and it was most thoughtful of you to
advise me in advance about the article in the June issue
of Gallery magazine.

Your letter has been sent on to the Committee staff
in order that they might share your recommendations about
Richard Case Nagell.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Sincerely,


LOUIS STOKES
Chairman

LS:thn

193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, NY 10530

August 3, 1978

Mr. Robert Blakey
Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Bob:

Following our telephone conversation on Tuesday August 1, I checked with Bob Cutler, my co-author on the Umbrella Weapon System article in Gallery June 1978. Bob told me he left with Mr. Preyer and with you, photographic material showing that The Umbrella Man (TUM) was quite probably J. Gordon Novel.

Your news photo of him reinforces that belief for both of us. I did not have that portion of the Couch film from WFAA and so had never seen TUM's face as clearly as it appears there. The Bothun photo of him has a light reflection around his nose, as I'm sure you know.

We have a 1962-3 photo of Novel taken from the same angle as the Couch, film of TUM and a photo comparison convinces us more than ever that Novel is TUM. Mr. Preyer no doubt told you back in April that Novel is in a jail in Georgia, framed for a crime he and Jim Garrison, his former lawyer, both claim he didn't commit.

Best regards,

Dick Sprague

DS/mc

P.S. I am still waiting for a response to my letters to Louis Stokes about attending the hearings beginning August 14.

cc: L. Stokes
R. Cutler

PORTION OF BALLISTICS EXPERT DR. THOMAS GUINN'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HSCA RE C.E.#399

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE SINE-QUE-NON OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S, AND ALSO THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS FINDINGS THAT ONE, AND ONLY ONE, BULLET, WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBIT #399, THE SO-CALLED "MAGIC BULLET", WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE NON-FATAL WOUNDS INFLICTED ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND GOVERNOR CONNALLY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN MAINTAINING THE FABLE THAT ONLY ONE ASSASSIN'S SHOTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE WOUNDS RECEIVED BY BOTH MEN THAT TRAGIC DAY. THIS CRUCIALLY, ALL-IMPORTANT ASPECT WAS TESTIFIED TO BY BALLISTICS EXPERT, DOCTOR THOMAS GUINN, BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1978. HIS ANSWER WAS, IN AND OF ITSELF, DESTRUCTIVE TO THEIR FINDINGS ON THIS MATTER. I WILL NOW QUOTE FROM THE TAPE-RECORDING OF THAT TESTIMONY-GUINN QUESTIONED BY STAFF MEMBER:

Q- "AND I CLOSE WITH THIS QUESTION, DR. GUINN. SINCE THERE WERE NO FRAGMENTS FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY OTHER THAN SKULL SHOTS" (PLURAL-T.G.), "IN ACTUAL FACT, USING YOUR SCIENTIFIC METHODS, YOU CANNOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHETHER OR NOT THE BULLET THAT PASSED THROUGH GOVERNOR CONNALLY ALSO PASSED THROUGH THE PRESIDENT. IS THAT A CORRECT STATEMENT?"

A- "THAT'S CORRECT! THESE RESULTS ONLY SHOW THAT THE 399 PRISTINE BULLET, SO-CALLED, SUCH A BULLET MATCHES THE FRAGMENTS IN HIS" (CONNALLY'S) "WRIST. THEY GIVE YOU NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER ABOUT WHETHER THAT BULLET WENT THROUGH PRESIDENT KENNEDY SINCE IT LEFT NO TRACKS AND, FOR THAT MATTER, IT DOESN'T EVEN SAY THAT IT WENT THROUGH GOVERNOR CONNALLY, BECAUSE IT LEFT NO TRACKS THERE EITHER."

THIS ALARMING TESTIMONY BY A QUALIFIED EXPERT ON BALLISTICS ABSOLUTELY PROVES THAT THERE EXISTS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT THE "SINGLE-BULLET-THEORY IS VIABLE, CORRECT OR SUBSTANTIATED!! THIS TESTIMONY IN AND OF ITSELF COMPLETELY DESTROYS NOT ONLY THE WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS, BUT ALSO THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS AS WELL!

THIS TESTIMONY BY DR. GUINN WAS UTTERED AFTER DR. GUINN ASSURED THE SELECT COMMITTEE THAT HE PERSONALLY EMPLOYED THE USE OF, NOT ONLY SPECTOGRAPHY, BUT ALSO NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES AS WELL. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THERE IS NO MORE DEFINITIVE TESTING AND ANALYSIS/RESULTS THAN THAT WHICH IS DETERMINED AND OBTAINED BY NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS EXAMINATIONS. AND TO FURTHER ATTEST TO THE COMPLETE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THE "SINGLE-BULLET-THEORY, SO CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT IF THE HSCA'S CONCLUSIONS ARE CORRECT, IS THE ADDED FACT THAT DOCTOR ROBERT SHAW, THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED GOVERNOR JOHN CONNALLY'S WOUNDS, STATED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IT WAS "INCONCEIVABLE" THAT BOTH MEN WERE, OR COULD HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY THE SAME BULLET BECAUSE, AS DR. SHAW STATED, "THERE ARE TOO MANY FRAGMENTS IN GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S CHEST, WRIST AND THIGH THAN WERE MISSING FROM THAT BULLET."

REMEMBERING WHAT ARLEN SPECTOR, INVENTOR OF THE "SINGLE-BULLET-THEORY", AND FORMER STAFF MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, SAID, "TO SAY THAT BOTH MEN WERE HIT BY SEPERATE BULLETS IS SYNONOMOUS WITH SAYING THAT THERE WERE TWO ASSASSINS." I MUST ADMIT THAT FOR THE FIRST AND PERHAPS ONLY TIME, I MUST AGREE WITH SOMEONE WHO SERVED ON THE WARREN COMMISSION. YES, I THINK MR. SPECTOR IS QUITE CORRECT IN MAKING THAT STATEMENT.

AS ATTORNEYS PROCLAIM IN COURT CASES, "I REST MY CASE, GENTLEMEN."

193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, New York 10530

September 22, 1978

Representative Yvonne Burke
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mrs. Burke:

I don't know whether you recall our meeting on July 21, 1977 when Jack White, Robert Groden and I made presentations to the J.F.K. subcommittee of the Select Committee on Assassinations. You may remember my showing a summary of photographic evidence of conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination. You asked some very pertinent questions which I answered about how to obtain films and photos from media organizations that were stonewalling at the time.

I am truly sorry that you have missed the first three weeks of the J.F.K. Hearings because I feel that your presence would have created at least a minority of one against the carefully orchestrated cover up that is now taking place. I had great faith in the committee, especially after a luncheon meeting with Louis Stokes in 1977 and after the presentation to you.

I want you personally to know that I have now lost all of that faith. The farce that is going on is really almost unbelievable to an honest researcher. All witnesses (except Cyril Wecht), all panels employed by the committee, the staff and the committee members doing the questioning, obviously made up their minds a long time ago that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin, that there was no conspiracy and that the Warren Commission was right.

I cannot understand how this came about. As the most likely committee member to still keep an open mind, I would like to ask your opinion.

*Yours sincerely,
Dick Sprague*

Copy to L. Stokes - Sept 23, 1978

(TURN PAGE) →

LOUIS STOKES, CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, A.S.
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
 THOMAS BRATHWAITE BURNS, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. DESS, OHIO
 HAROLD E. FORD, TEX.
 FLOYD J. PITTSBURGH, DEL.
 ROBERT W. CORDAS, PA.

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
 STEWART S. MC KINNEY, OHIO
 CHARLES THOMAS, MISS.
 MARSHALL S. SAWYER, MISS.

(202) 225-4624

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3300 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

October 10, 1978

Mr. Richard Sprague
 193 Pinewood Road
 Hartsdale, New York 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:


I was greatly disturbed by your letter of September 23, 1978 in which you stated that, "I have one last hope that what we are witnessing in your hearings is a charade meant to fool the FBI and the CIA. If it is, you have fooled me. If it is not, your statements to me over the past year about getting at the truth were all meaningless. I have lost all faith in you and the committee."

I must say that I deeply regret the fact that you have lost faith in the performance of my committee. We have attempted to do a thorough, competent and professional job which would be a source of pride for you and other concerned Americans.

I should state here for the record, Mr. Sprague, that I find nothing inconsistent in my statements to you over the year indicating that the committee would be seeking the truth and nothing but the truth during the course of the investigation and the testimony that the committee has received during its public hearings. Perhaps you are confused because I did not explicitly state that the truth the committee is seeking is not your truth or my truth, but truth supported by the weight of the evidence.

Thanks again for your past and current concerns. I assure you that the committee will make every effort to tell the whole story to the American people.

Sincerely,


 LOUIS STOKES
 Chairman

LS:icmj

193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, NY 10530

October 30, 1978

Representative Louis Stokes
Select Committee on Assassinations
U. S. House of Representatives
3369 House Office Building, Annex 2
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

I appreciate your responding to my September 23 letter. I am truly sorry to be so disturbing to you concerning the committee's hearings. I wish I could be more complimentary and positive about your work.

I could not agree with you more that the "truth supported by the weight of the evidence" is what we are all after. I'm enclosing for your information one more copy of the document I gave to Henry Gonzalez, Richard A. Sprague, Bob Tasenbaum, and you in 1976 and 1977.

Unless you call the witnesses listed on pages 4-6 of this document, Louis, you have not dealt with the most important evidence of all. How can you possibly claim to have unearthed anything approximating the truth, unless you and the rest of the committee interrogate with strength, the following important witnesses that you missed:

Richard Case Nagell, James P. Hosty, Louis Ivon, Victor Marchetti, Gordon Novel, Ronald Augustinovich, Mary Hope, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Guy Cabaldin, Major L.M. Bloomfield, Harry Williams, Sylvia Odio and Jim Garrison.

The document explains how each of these witnesses was involved in the assassination or investigations of it. It is based, not just on my research, but on painful hours of investigative efforts by many, many people, including Jim Garrison's professional staff, the Committee to Investigate Assassinations and others.

I understand that James P. Hosty is finally ready to tell his real story, at the risk of physical harm to

himself and his family. You have not called him. Richard Case Nagell has been ready to testify for a long time. Despite my requests to Dr. Blakely and to you, he has not been called and no effort has been made to locate him through the only person who knows where he is, Dick Russell.

If you will pardon my saying so Louis, something about just those two failures stinks, not to mention all of the others.

It is not too late to save your reputations. You can still call those witnesses in December. I hope you do.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Sprague

193 Pinewood Road
Hartdale, NY 10530

November 24, 1978

Representative Louis Stokes
Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3369 House Office Building, Annex 2
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

I am still waiting for a reply to my letter of October 30, 1978. I thought I should write again to remind you that the witnesses you should call in December are not going to be around much longer. I'm afraid that Gordon Novak, Richard Case Nagell, James Hosty and Warren de Bruys, in particular may go the same way that Regis Kennedy, William Sullivan, and George de Mohrenschildt went. You really must call them before they die.

Regis Kennedy reportedly died of natural causes the day before you were to talk with him. I do not believe that. How many more key witnesses have to die before you would be convinced? Kennedy, de Bruys and Hosty were Oswald's points of contact in the FBI, receiving his reports on the conspiratorial group planning JFK's assassination. I have known this since 1971 directly from Hosty's own lips via Carver Gaten and Jim Cochenaur. Regis Kennedy also knew why the FBI was searching for Clay Shaw under his alias Clay Bertrand in New Orleans, before Dean Andrews received that phone call from him about defending Oswald. Kennedy may also have been one of the three agents who took the Babushka lady's film away from her. At least she told me he was one of them from his photo.

So Regis Kennedy had to die. So do Warren de Bruys and James Hosty. If they die of "natural causes" in the next month or two, don't say I didn't warn you.

Nagell and Novak are in even greater danger. Nagell may now be safe. He fled the country recently. However, the CIA has tentacles everywhere, so he will not really be safe

wherever he is. Noval could easily be killed, since he is in prison. That is one of the easiest places for the death squad to catch up with him.

As I have had told you in previous letters, the reason you must call Noval is that there is a very strong possibility that he is the umbrella man. If you laugh at that and try to tell me that you found the umbrella man, Mr. Witt, I'll laugh right back at you and tell you that farce you put on for the American public didn't fool anyone with his eyes even half way open. In addition to the obviously planned sequence of events and the way in which Mr. Witt surfaced, his umbrella was certainly not the one used in Dealey Plaza. It was the wrong size, had the wrong number of ribs, and was missing the two round white bulbs on either end when folded up.

No, Louis, Mr. Witt was either planted upon you or else your staff planted him. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt for the moment and assume that you do not know he was a plant. If you let it go as is, you and Mr. Preyer and the rest of the committee are going to look pretty silly.

You absolutely must call as witnesses, Gordon Noval, and at the other end, Charles Sensesay and the CIA people associated with Fort Detrick, Maryland, where that umbrella launching system was made. Incidentally, two Bulgarian intelligence agents have recently been assassinated in England with an umbrella weapon using poison flechettes, very similar to the one used on JFK.

I would appreciate a response to this letter telling me what you plan to do about those witnesses.

Best regards,

Dick Sprague

LOUIS STOKES, MD., CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.
WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
VIVIANE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.
HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.
FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.
ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

SAMUEL J. DEVINE, OHIO
STEWART E. MC KINNEY, CONN.
CHARLES THOMAS, NEBR.
HAROLD S. BARTER, MICH.

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

1300 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

December 4, 1978

Mr. Dick Sprague
193 Pinewood Road
Hartsdale, New York 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:


Thank you for your letter of November 24, 1978.

I am aware of the amount of time you have spent analyzing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and your interest in the work of the Select Committee on Assassinations since its inception.

However, I regret that under our Rules, it is impossible for us to respond to your letter in a manner which would reveal the substance or procedure of our investigation, or the names of those persons who will be called to testify before the committee.

The committee is, of course, grateful for your suggestions and those of the many other concerned citizens who have taken the time to write.

Sincerely,


LOUIS STOKES
Chairman

LS:jl

3· Aftermath

by adding after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) Under the authority of subsection (a) (1) (B) (i), the Secretary shall provide for demonstration projects, in at least three States and at least one of which is located in a rural area, which relate to the provision of preventive health services (including basic health screening, referral, and health education) to the elderly throughout the State through traveling health care practitioners (other than physicians, but including public health nurses) who provide such services in or through different public and private nonprofit facilities (including churches, schools, and senior citizen centers). The Secretary shall report to Congress on the results of such demonstration projects not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph."

UNAUTHORIZED EXAMINATION ON SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS MATERIALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, recent newspaper and other media accounts have carried the story that materials in the possession of the former Select Committee on Assassinations were examined in an unauthorized fashion last summer. As the former chairman of the select committee, I am making these remarks to report to my colleagues the facts of the matter.

The Select Committee on Assassinations faced an important and complex task. The House mandated the committee to look into the facts and circumstances surrounding the deaths of two of our Nation's greatest leaders, President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Death is not a pleasant subject, and its details can be gruesome. One of the least pleasant of the tasks that faced the committee was the examination of the photographs made during the autopsies of these two men. Anyone who knew them in life would be disturbed viewing their photographs in death.

The photographs that were made in connection with the autopsies of President Kennedy and Dr. King have never been made public. Good taste dictates that they never be. The Warren Commission that examined President Kennedy's death in 1964 did not publish them, and the select committee's final report on the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King will also not make the photographs of either of them public.

Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee on Assassinations took extraordinary care that the autopsy photographs were not used in an unauthorized fashion.

There are segments of the press that are so lacking in good taste that they might well have published them if they could have obtained access to them. The select committee made every effort to employ only the most trustworthy persons, but even then, only those with a need to use the autopsy photographs in their work were given access to them.

The autopsy materials were kept in a separate safe in the security room of the offices of the select committee. The

committee's classified files were kept in the same room, but in separate safes. The general files of the committee were housed in another area entirely. It was necessary to sign in and out on a logbook to secure access to classified files. Access to the autopsy materials could only be secured by the personal permission of the chief counsel given separately every time access was sought.

Each notebook that contained a set of the autopsy photographs was separately numbered and the use of each book was recorded on a log every time it was examined.

In July of last year the staff of the select committee discovered that a Central Intelligence Agency employee had obtained unauthorized access to the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy. The staff made this discovery with the assistance of the District of Columbia Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The facts are as follows:

A researcher on the Assassinations Committee staff secured permission of the chief counsel to get access to the Kennedy autopsy materials. Access was obtained in the morning. The materials were taken from the safe, and the safe door was closed but not locked. They were to be used in another room by the committee's medical artist to prepare drawings of the President's wounds.

When he returned later that day to return the photographs, he found that the safe had been opened and another notebook had been taken out of the safe. One photograph of the President that was enclosed in a plastic cover had been ripped out of the notebook and the photograph taken out of its cover.

The chief counsel of the committee was immediately notified and he ordered the staff to undertake an investigation to determine who had obtained unauthorized access to the materials. The fingerprints of each member of the staff who had authorized access to the safe were matched against fingerprints that were lifted from the books that had been removed from the safe, the plastic covers in the books, and the inside of the safe door. None of the staff fingerprints matched the lifted fingerprints. The fingerprints of a Central Intelligence Agency employee were then matched to the lifted prints.

The match was made by the District of Columbia Police and double checked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Speaker, this matter was handled by the District of Columbia Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a competent and confidential fashion and the committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

To understand how the Central Intelligence Agency employee obtained access to the safe it is necessary to understand the role he played with the committee. The select committee had access at the Central Intelligence Agency to the agency's classified files. Notes were taken by the staff on the files. Those notes were brought by an agency courier under seal to a special area in the committee's offices where they were locked in a safe to which only the Central Intelli-

gence Agency had the combination. Nothing else was kept in that room. An agency employee was available during working hours in the room to give the staff access to the notes. The safe could only be opened in the presence of the Agency employee and a staff member. If it was necessary to use the Agency notes in connection with a regular file of the committee, the regular file was brought to the special area. If it was necessary to use the committee's classified files in connection with the staff notes either the classified file would be brought to the special area or the staff notes were brought to the classified files in the security room. The Agency employee always accompanied the staff notes if they were removed from the special area. But the Agency employee was not authorized to be out of the special area unless he was accompanied by a staff member. He was not authorized to have access to the autopsy materials.

When the Agency employee's fingerprints were matched to the lifted fingerprints, permission was obtained from the Agency to interview the Agency employee. The employee's permission was obtained to record the interview. The employee denied having access to the autopsy materials when he was interviewed on one day. He was then interviewed a second time on a succeeding day. He did not admit any wrongdoing. He refused to be interviewed any more.

The Central Intelligence Agency conducted an investigation of the matter. Its investigation began after the committee asked permission to talk to the employee and before the committee brought the details of the unauthorized action, including the fingerprints, to the Agency's attention. The Agency's investigation included interviews and the use of photographs.

Additional photographs were taken after the details of the committee's investigation were brought to the attention of the Agency. The committee was given access to everything that the Agency obtained in its investigation and certain additional materials that the committee requested.

The committee staff members who conducted the investigation are satisfied that there was no evidence uncovered that the Agency directed the employee to obtain access to the autopsy materials. They also believe on the basis of what they know that the Agency did not direct the activity of the Agency employee in this regard. The Agency employees who conducted the Agency's investigation are satisfied that the motive for obtaining unauthorized access was mere curiosity. The committee staff members are not satisfied that the motive has been established; they believe mere curiosity is not consistent with the fingerprint evidence. But in the absence of a full and truthful confession by the Agency employee or the others, if any, who were in league with him—or substantial new evidence all recognize that the matter of motive cannot be ultimately resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize several points:

First. No evidence was uncovered that anything was taken;

Second. No evidence was uncovered that anything was misused, other than in the unauthorized examination itself;

Third. No evidence was uncovered that anyone has profited from these acts;

Fourth. No evidence was uncovered that anyone other than the employee himself was involved in what he did;

Fifth. The employee has been discharged from the Agency; and

Sixth. To my knowledge, no disciplinary action has been thought necessary or taken against any other Agency employees in connection with the incident.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what additional action can be taken in this matter. I considered it closed in July 1978 after the committee and the Agency did all they reasonably could be expected to do. I consider it closed now. Nevertheless, if the House or any of its relevant committees wants to inquire into the matter further, I will assist in any way possible. It is enough to add that speculation about the matter beyond the evidence at hand is unjust to all concerned. No one wishes to know the truth more than I do. But the irresponsible circulation of rumor and myth only feed paranoia; they do not quench the thirst for knowledge.

At this point I include the following:
(From the Washington Post, June 19, 1979)
CIA OFFICE RIFLED FILES CALLED SPYRICAL, SELF-SERVING
(By George Lardner, Jr.)

The House Assassinations Committee discovered last summer that its most sensitive files had been rifled, and then traced fingerprints on them to an officer of the CIA, according to informed sources.

The incident involved surreptitious entry of a combination safe at the congressional committee's offices, the sources said. The safe was reserved for physical evidence of President Kennedy's assassination, including the autopsy photos, X-rays and other articles, such as the so-called "magic bullet" that wounded both Kennedy and Texas Gov. John B. Connally.

Apparently nothing had been taken, but, the sources said, there was no doubt that the files in the safe had been tampered with. For instance, they said the autopsy photos of the head shot that killed Kennedy had been taken out of their slip cases and were left in a tray inside the three-drawer safe.

"It looked as though someone had just run out," one source said.

After several inquiries by a reporter this week, the CIA acknowledged that it has dismissed the individual in question, but indicated that it plans no further action.

"We're satisfied that it was just a matter of curiosity [on the individual CIA officer's part]," said CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu.

Asked whether it might have been a matter of conscious CIA spying on a congressional committee, Hetu replied, "Good lord, no."

The unauthorized entry was discovered when committee staffers arrived at work early one morning last summer, probably in July, sources said.

"Blakey [the House committee's chief counsel, O. Robert Blakey] was told right away," one source recounted. "Only three or four people were supposed to have access to that safe. And I understand that one of them said he'd locked it the night before."

Fingerprint experts from the D.C. police department, where several committee staffers had old friends, were called in. By then, someone had thoughtlessly had the documents rearranged neatly, so that there were other

prints on them and on the safe. But the security-conscious committee reportedly had fingerprint records of everyone who worked there, both those with access to the safe and those who had no business being there.

Sources said the only unauthorized set of prints, the police found, belonged to Robert T. Blahut, a CIA liaison officer who had been detailed to assist the committee with the CIA records it needed for its investigations.

"His fingerprints were all over the place," one source reported. "On the photos, inside the safe, and on all sorts of different packages."

Particularly telling, another source indicated, was the fact that some of the prints were found on autopsy photos themselves rather than the plastic sleeves in which they had been encased.

The episode reportedly produced a great wave of anxiety within the CIA, which has been claiming for several years that it has learned its lessons and that its domestic spying and misdeeds are a relic of the past. In any case, the agency launched an intensive internal investigation, including polygraph examinations of Blahut and perhaps a number of his superiors.

In a brief telephone interview with The Washington Post, Blahut denied any wrongdoing. He acknowledged that his fingerprints had been found on the documents in question, but insisted that there was an innocent explanation. He refused, however, to say what that was.

"There's other things that are involved that are detrimental to other things," he said. Asked what he meant by that, he refused to elaborate.

"I signed an oath of secrecy [with the CIA]," he said. "I cannot discuss it any further."

Sources quoted Blakey, who was kept informed of the CIA's in-house inquiry, as having stated on several occasions that Blahut had been given three polygraph examinations in all and that he had failed them in important respects.

"He denied he did it, and he flunked that," one source said. "They also asked him whether anyone ordered him to do it. He said no one, and he flunked that."

Blahut, who said he worked for the CIA office of security, insisted that he had come through the tests with his credibility unblemished.

"I've already defended myself to my employers," he said when asked about the incident. "As far as I'm concerned, that's all cleared up."

Blakey, who has been working on the now moribund Assassination Committee's final report in recent weeks, refused to comment. Sources said he seized on the incident last year and used it as leverage to get the CIA to cough up a number of documents it had been holding back from the committee. Some of the records reportedly pertained to Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September 1963.

"There was a marked improvement," one former staffer recalled. "All of a sudden, they were giving us everything we wanted. Blakey kept saying he wanted to go slow, to let them [the CIA] conduct the investigation. . . . But I think he'd have to admit we wanted better cooperation."

Asked one question after another about the incident, including the identification of the CIA officer's fingerprints, Blakey kept saying: "I won't discuss the matter." Asked if he would deny it, he said, "No."

Most members of the House committee apparently were kept in the dark. Even the chairman of the subcommittee that investigated the Kennedy assassination, Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), said he was unaware of it when queried by a reporter. Later, after checking with Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Preyer declined to comment beyond saying:

"Blakey and Lou [Stokes] were handling the CIA stuff. I don't have any nose out about it. Talk to Lou."

Stokes declined to talk. "The matter was terminated," he said. "There's no need for a comment."

It was not clear what other CIA officials might have been given polygraph tests before the inquiry was dropped, although sources said that one of Blahut's superiors, Sen. Brockmire of the CIA inspector general's office, had been expected to be given one. There were also reports that CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci had offered "in a magnanimous way" to take one.

Brockmire is a veteran CIA official who served as the agency's chief liaison office with the Senate Intelligence Committee during the 1975-78 investigations of the intelligence community. He also wrote the report to the CIA inspector general's report to the Senate on CIA's domestic spying against Sen. Premier Fidel Castro.

Brockmire retired recently. He could not be reached for comment. CIA spokesman Hetu said his retirement had nothing to do with the rumormongering of the House committee's safe.

As for Carlucci, Hetu told a reporter, "I don't remember having said what you do he said."

(From the Washington Post, June 19, 1979)
CIA PROBE INTO RIFLED FILES CALLED SPYRICAL, SELF-SERVING
(By George Lardner, Jr.)

The Central Intelligence Agency's investigation of the rifling last year of a congressional committee's files by one of its officers was aimed primarily at getting the CIA off the hook, according to informed sources.

"They investigated it to get out of it themselves, not to find out whether someone else was involved," said one knowledgeable source.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that the most sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee had been rifled last summer by a CIA liaison officer who has been assigned to help the committee.

The CIA responded by saying that its officer in question, Robert T. Blahut, had been dismissed. CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu said the agency was "satisfied" that the incident had been simply "a matter of curiosity" on Blahut's part.

Sources close to the committee sharply disputed the CIA's assertions. One said "circumstantial [evidence] is overwhelming that more than 'curiosity' was involved."

CIA officer Blahut, this source said, "went into a room where he wasn't supposed to be without one of our officers being present."

There, the source said:

"He opened a safe, and pulled out drawers."

"He took a ring-binder out of the drawer, he ripped a plastic file out of the notebook, and he took a picture out of the plastic case."

"He fled when he heard a noise, and then he lied about it."

According to this source, both CIA Director Stansfeld Turner and CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci were informed bluntly by the committee's chief counsel, O. Robert Blakey, of what the committee regarded as the shortcomings of the CIA inquiry.

Hetu denied this. In a telephone interview yesterday, he also denied that the CIA he conducted a shortsighted, self-protective investigation. "We did check outside and inside [the agency]," he said.

Hetu also maintained that Blahut has every right to be in the room where the safe was located.

The rifled safe was reserved for physical evidence from the Kennedy assassination and, at the time, contained at least a grisly autopsy photos. The safe contained

CIA records and other materials that Blahut was supposed to safeguard was in another room, sources said.

Committee staffers discovered the incident one afternoon last July after a committee lawyer had gone into the room, with Blakey's permission, to inspect some of the autopsy photos. He left the room briefly to speak with Blakey and returned to discover that one of the notebooks he had not touched was out of place.

If it were just curiosity, why should you have to take photos out of an unused book in order to see them? Why not just look at them?" one source said.

As for Blakey, sources said, he had always been "paranoid" about the possibility that some of the gruesome Kennedy autopsy photos might get out and destroy the committee's reputation.

"No one who has seen those photos would have any doubt that they should not be made public," one source said. "The one thing that would have done us [the House Assassinations Committee] in would have been for those photos to be publicly released. We were never satisfied that someone else wasn't involved."

Of the CIA's investigation, one source said, "all they investigated was whether he [Blahut] had any connection with the agency [in doing what he did] . . . They asked [Blahut] on a polygraph [examination] whether he had any connection with the agency in doing what he did. And he passed when he said he didn't have any connection. But they didn't ask whether someone else had authorized him to do it."

Turner enunciated the agency's view yesterday afternoon in one of his "Director's Notes" to all CIA employees: "A media report today suggests that there was something sinister involving the agency and the files of the House Assassinations Committee. I want to assure you that this is simply not the case. Our investigations revealed an error in judgment by a contract employee as a custodian for CIA material with the committee. He acted alone and out of curiosity and was dismissed."

[From the Washington Star, June 18, 1979] CIA Press Officer Who Ruled Files

A CIA security officer, found to have sorted through sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee, has been fired, an agency spokesman said last night.

The security officer, Regis Blahut, was assigned to guard CIA documents being used by the committee in its investigation of the assassination of President John Kennedy, said spokesman Herbert Hetu. "He saw the committee's files and picked them up, which was dumb," Hetu said.

After an internal CIA investigation, he said, "we were totally convinced" Blahut was not encouraged "from outside or inside the CIA" to examine private committee documents.

"That would be the immediate question, but we felt certain it was just a matter of curiosity and poor judgement," Hetu said. "We dismissed the guy and that was it."

A Washington Post story in today's editions quoted unnamed sources as saying the incident involved "surreptitious entry of a combination safe at the committee's offices," but Hetu said no safe was involved as far as he knew.

The Post said the safe was reserved for physical evidence of the Kennedy assassination, including autopsy photos, X-rays and the bullet said to have hit Kennedy and Texas Gov. John B. Connally.

There are no allegations that anything was taken.

Blahut could not be reached for comment last night, but The Post quoted him as acknowledging that his fingerprints had been found on some of the documents. However,

he denied any wrongdoing, citing a CIA "oath of secrecy" in declining to elaborate, the newspaper said.

[From the Washington Post, June 28, 1979] House Probing CIA 'DARTS' Who Ruled Files on JFK

(By George Gardner, Jr.)

The House Intelligence Committee has started an investigation of a CIA officer's snooping last year in the offices of another congressional committee.

Members of the Intelligence Committee, which has oversight authority over the CIA, were informed of the inquiry last week by Chairman Edward Boland (D-Mass.). Committee staffers had already interviewed the CIA's director of security, Robert Gambino, about the incident following a report in The Washington Post.

The Post, quoting informed sources, reported that the most sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee had been rifled last summer and fingerprints on them traced to a CIA liaison officer assigned to the committee.

The assignment, it has since been learned, was made under a CIA program code-named "MIL Child," which sources described as encompassing a variety of so-called "babysitting" chores.

The agency dismissed the liaison officer in question, Regis T. Blahut, last August and then dropped the matter. In a memo to all CIA employees last week, CIA Director Stansfield Turner took the position that Blahut had "acted alone and out of curiosity."

Since then, the CIA has also been insisting that Blahut, who had been employed by the agency's Office of Security, did not rifle the Assassinations Committee's files and did not even enter the safe where the files were kept.

However, the agency has refused to say what it thinks did happen, beyond describing it as—in the words of CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu—"something dumb."

According to informed sources, the incident took place one afternoon last July after an Assassinations Committee staffer had started inspecting some of the materials in a combination safe reserved for physical evidence of the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

Sources said he took what he wanted and left the room. According to one version, he left the safe door closed but unlocked; according to another, the safe door might have been left slightly ajar. In any case, sources said, when he returned, he found a book of Kennedy autopsy photos inside the safe in obvious disarray.

Blahut's fingerprints were found on the inside door of the safe. They were also found on one of the gruesome autopsy photos, which had been taken out of its plastic case, sources said. The plastic case itself had been torn from its notebook binder.

The CIA's Hetu, however, declares that Blahut "did not enter the safe to get the notebook."

Asked how it was then that Blahut's fingerprints were found on the inside of the safe door, Hetu said this must have happened when Blahut was "putting it [the book of photos] back in the safe."

Asked why Blahut would do that if he hadn't taken the book from the safe to begin with, the CIA spokesman said, "I don't know. Ask Blahut."

Hetu also declined to give the CIA's version of what happened, insisting that it would serve "no purpose."

Blahut, who reportedly failed CIA polygraph tests in several important respects concerning the incident, declined to comment. He has said there is an innocent explanation, but he has refused to say what that is.

Sources said there were at least three

personnel shifts and changes within the CIA's Office of Security following the incident last summer and the recent publicity over it, affecting, among others, Blahut's immediate supervisor. Hetu said there was no connection.

"We're satisfied that what he [Blahut] did, he did on his own," the CIA spokesman told a reporter. "None of the things [personnel shifts and resignations] you've described had anything to do with that. . . . We're satisfied the guy did something dumb. He looked at a book he wasn't supposed to look at. And we fired him after we assured ourselves that he wasn't tasked [to do what he did] by anyone either inside or outside the agency."

Sources close to the committee maintained that the CIA's investigation was aimed primarily at getting the agency off the hook and was not thorough enough to eliminate suspicions that more than "curiosity" might have been involved.

Blahut had been assigned to help the Assassinations Committee with the CIA files it needed in its inquiries. Sources described the MIL Child project, under which the assignment came, as a sort of "babysitting" function that also includes clearing visitors to the CIA headquarters building at Langley.

□ 2230

NRTA-AARP SETS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 1979

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PEPPER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Speaker, the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons are widely recognized organizations concerned with the welfare of older Americans. These organizations have recently published their 1979 legislative policy and 1979-80 joint State legislative committee policy guidelines. This year's program emphasizes the importance of the demographic, economic and employment trends in terms of legislative policy for current and future retirees and the Government programs which assist them. The National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons represent over 12 million members and emphasize that as the older population expands and changes, Federal programs must respond.

Because I would like to share some highlights of their national legislative objectives with my fellow Congressmen, I would ask that the following article be inserted in its entirety at this point in the Record:

THE 1979 NRTA-AARP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ECONOMIC POLICY

As inflation is our major economic problem, steps must be taken to reduce drastically the annual rate and provide the elderly with an increased measure of compensation for the inflation losses they suffer.

To these ends, the federal government should coordinate monetary and fiscal policies, reduce government spending, balance the federal budget, strongly enforce anti-trust policy, deregulate those economic sectors where price competition would be improved, promote competition and productivity, use economic "controls" where necessary (as in the health sector) and develop innovative "tools" to use in the fight against inflation.

LETTER I SENT TO CLIFF FENTON-
OF COURSE HE NEVER ANSWERED IT.

Ted Landolfo
Chairman: Assassination
Information Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
July 25, 1982

Dear Mr. Fenton,

After our phone conversation today, it is crystal clear to me, as it will be to many other researchers and citizens I will communicate this to on the many radio shows I do across the country, why you passed the CIA and FBI "security clearance check" which all members of the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations were subjected to as printed in the HCOA Report (Page 7) dated January 25, 1978. I can imagine how very pleased those agencies were having you on the staff. You are, indeed, a "company man". By refusing to verify to me the fact that when the HCOA sent you + other investigators to New Orleans to view and hear the evidence that Jim Garrison had of a definite mammoth conspiracy involving elements of the CIA, according to what Garrison told me by phone, which I taped, in 1978, that all of you were convinced of this CIA conspiracy to murder President Kennedy. When I asked you about this today, you refused to tell me about it, and this evidence was suppressed totally in the HCOA Final Report. How does it feel to personally know that you, and others, especially Chief Counsel Robert Blakey, have ruined the trust and faith the American people had placed in your hands, that is, to ascertain the full truth about the JFK/King assassinations? You, Blakey, Stokes and others now join the long list of cover-up artists of the facts, beginning during the "investigation" conducted in 1964 by the Warren Commission. I promise you that I will attempt to expose your HCOA coverups on every radio show I appear on in the future. You are all a genuine disgrace to the country you live in. Words fail to adequately describe what you all on the HCOA really are.

Yours in disgust, Ted Landolfo, F.S. The truth will out.

AN OPEN LETTER TO G. ROBERT BLAKEY:

G. Robert Blakey
Former Chief Counsel
House Select Committee on Assassinations
1341 East Wayne North
South Bend, Indiana

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: Assassination
Information Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone: (212) 288-1596
September 10, 1982

Dear Mr. Blakey,

At the outset, let me inform you that many copies of this letter are being sent all across the country to fellow long-time researchers, radio and TV stations I have appeared on as guest expert on the JFK assassination, newspapers, magazines, newsletters and also to many people across this country who still write me inquiring as to the mammoth coverup of evidence perpetrated by the HSCA and especially by yourself.

When I recently spoke to you by phone on August 21, 1982, I asked you several questions, among them the following, and your answers;

1) Jim Garrison, former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, told me in 1978, that a team of 5 investigators headed by Clifford Fenton were sent to Garrison's office in New Orleans and also to Clinton, Louisiana on several occasions and that, among other things, they secured tape-recorded conversations in which the assassination of President Kennedy was being discussed by, among others, voices identified as being contract employees of the Central Intelligence Agency and that those tapes had been turned over to the HSCA, yourself included. Your answer to me was that that information was not true, implying that Mr. Garrison was lying. No, Mr. Blakey, it is YOU who is lying about this crucial information. YOU suppressed it!

2) I asked you why you allowed the infamous "Non-Disclosure-Agreement" to be forced to be signed by everyone who served in any capacity on the Committee, and I told you that, since it was undoubtedly a CIA/FBI document, that that resulted in the ABSOLUTE TAKEOVER of that Committee by the very agencies which the Church Committee, in 1976, concluded, at the very highest levels of each agency, LIED to the Warren Commission, MISLED the Warren Commission, and failed to provide much crucial information to the Warren Commission. Your answer was that the CIA and FBI DID NOT issue that secrecy oath but that the members of Congress who comprised the Select Committee issued it. That was ANOTHER LIE by yourself to me. I have obtained a complete copy of that document and it is, beyond question, a CIA/FBI document!

3) I asked you why the most brilliant and expert forensic pathologist in this country, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht's testimony, given in open public hearings before you and the Committee, was not believed and relied upon. Your answer to this was simply the following, and I quote you, "because Wecht was wrong." Now, I wonder on what basis you were able to make that judgment and evaluation since, in any TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION, the VERY BEST expert/s should be relied upon. Wouldn't a more truthful answer by yourself have been that Dr. Wecht's testimony, if believed and relied upon, totally destroys the Warren Report's, and ultimately the Select Committee's conclusions that all the shots which were fired that day which struck the president and Governor Connally were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald and him alone?

I will now ask you the following questions which are imperative:

1) Since it is a fact that the Committee and yourself summoned and called to appear before the Committee ten researchers/critics of the Warren Report, why did you exclude the two most prodigious compilers of the public data on the two murders under investigation? I refer to Mae Brussell, who has accumulated the largest PRINTED files on

these cases, and I refer to myself as well. I have personally compiled what is acknowledged to be undoubtedly the largest, most all-inclusive tape-recorded library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, beginning only 14 minutes after the first bulletin from Dallas was announcing that shots had been fired at President Kennedy, and continuing to the present time. If you'll recall, one of the investigators you fired, Donovan Gay, told you I was willing to provide you and the Committee with very important tape copies and, if you'll also recall, I spoke to you on the phone about this very soon after you became Chief Counsel. You refused to tell me why you did not want to secure my tapes, approximately 4,000 hours at the time, or why I was not included among the other researchers to appear before your Committee.

2) Since it is a fact that about one hour after JFK was pronounced dead, Doctors Malcolm Perry and James McClelland held a press conference at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Perry stated that the wound in the front of JFK's neck was AN ENTRANCE WOUND. Doctor McClelland stated that the cause of death was the result of "A BULLET WOUND OF THE LEFT TEMPLE." Why didn't you call these two doctors to testify before your Committee?

3) Since it is a fact that TWO-THIRDS of the eyewitnesses in Dealey Plaza stated that at least one shot had been fired from behind a wooden fence atop a grassy knoll situated to the right-front of the presidential limousine, why weren't the surviving witnesses ever called to testify before the Committee, especially a woman named Jeanne Hill who stated to a reporter at the scene at 3:09 p.m. the following: "Mary (Moorman) began to take the picture as the president became right even with us. Three shots-we looked at him and he was looking at the middle of the street- three shots rang out and he grabbed his chest- and a look of pain on his face and fell across towards Jackie and she-uh-fell over him and said, 'My God, he's shot'. And-uh-there was an interval and then three or four more shots rang out." (Question by reporter) "Did you see the person who- who fired the..." (Answer) "No, I didn't see any person fire the weapon." (Question) "You only heard it?" (Answer) "I only heard it and I looked up and SAW A MAN RUNNING ALONG THE TOP OF THE HILL." P.S. I have this on tape-recording from television.

4) Since it is a self-admitted fact that pathologist Commander James J. Humes "destroyed by burning in my fireplace certain preliminary draft notes relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy", why is it that when he was questioned about this before your Committee, you blindly accepted his feeble (and obviously untrue) explanation that he did this because, as he testified, "There were smudges of blood on this paper." (notes)? Why wasn't he questioned further about this in a more probing fashion?

5) Why was it necessary to, at the last moment, concede to the fact that at least one shot had been fired from the grassy knoll area, (based on the acoustical evidence), when the photographic evidence supplied to you and the Committee by, among others, Richard E. Sprague and Robert Groden PROVES BEYOND QUESTION that at least one shot emanated from that exact area? And on what possible basis did your Final Report state and conclude that the shot fired from the knoll MISSED the president when the photographic evidence ALONE proves the contrary?

6) Why wasn't the information contained in the following books relied upon and further investigated in all aspects:

- a) "Rush To Judgment" by Mark Lane.
- b) "Accessories After The Fact" by Sylvia Meagher.
- c) The "Whitewash" series of books by Harold Weisberg.
- d) "Six Seconds In Dallas" by Josiah Thompson. (In this book, Mr. Thompson proves conclusively that the violent backward and to the left movement of JFK's head and body was entirely too fast to be attributed to any "neuromuscular spasm" that has continually been asserted by the Warren Report apologists. To refuse to accept Mr. Thompson's expert analysis is also tantamount to a refusal to accept the validity of Newton's second law of motion, i.e. CAUSE AND EFFECT.)

e) As did the Warren Commission, you and your Committee completely accepted the veracity of the SINGLE-BULLET-THEORY. Why didn't you and the Committee attempt to duplicate identical conditions using simulated bones and flesh comparable to those which were penetrated by (allegedly) Warren Commission exhibit # 399, (the so-called "Magic Bullet" to determine if ANY BULLET would remain in the almost totally pristine condition as #399?

7) Since it is a fact that nobody, including riflemen rated as MASTER by the FBI have ever been able to accomplish the feat of marksmanship attributed to Oswald, (3 shots with 2 hits in 5.6 seconds), and since it is also a fact that in his last and final shooting tests while serving in the Marine Corps, Oswald, Marine records state, was rated and regarded as "A RATHER POOR SHOT", how is it possible for you and the Committee, as did the Warren Commission before you, for you to reconcile these two aspects truthfully?

8) Why weren't the following persons (who we feel had a vast amount of information to give relating to the JFK assassination) called to testify before your Committee: E. Howard Hunt, Richard Helms, James Angleton, Gerald Ford and, of course, why wasn't Jim Garrison called either, among several others?

9) Why did you deny Mark Lane the right to represent Jerry Ray before your Committee, calling it a "conflict of interest" if he did so when, in fact, the REAL conflict of interest is your appointment to be chief counsel since it is a fact that you are being represented by your personal attorney, Louis Nizer, who has been, and remains one of the staunchest defenders of the Warren Report's conclusions, as he himself stated/wrote in an early edition preface to the Report.

10) Isn't it odd that although the CIA controlled news media combined to completely discredit your predecessor as chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, which ultimately led to his being forced to resign, isn't it odd that NOT ONE faction of that same CIA media ever found or published anything at all derogatory about you during the ENTIRE time you were the chief counsel?? They were very pleased and happy having you there serving in that most important capacity, weren't they?

In conclusion, let me state my opinion, shared by many, that you are unquestionably A COVERUP ARTIST without equal. In view of what is written here and also the fact that, as you yourself told me on the phone, the testimony taken in Executive Session is being suppressed from the citizens of this country for no less than 50 years, it is odiously clear that the coverup of the factual evidence by you and the Select Committee far surpasses the original coverup perpetrated by the Warren Commission in 1964. It took us researchers/critics many years to convince over 90 % of the people of the complete fraudulence and inaccuracies of the Warren Report's conclusions. It may very well take a considerable amount of time to completely reveal YOUR complete coverup as well, but other researchers and historians will follow us in the future. They also will be dissatisfied with what you and your ilk on the HSCA have perpetrated, and I feel confident that this will come to pass eventually because, as Martin Luther King, Jr. used to oftentimes say, "The TRUTH, though crushed to the earth, will rise again." Although I think it safe to say that as you will not, and in fact CANNOT TRUTHFULLY answer me as to the questions and charges I have here submitted to you, I feel equally certain that you will not answer the many letters you will be receiving soon on this matter. I would personally LOVE to debate this issue with you in any public forum you may choose to do so in. But, alas, I'm being a bit naive, aren't I? You'll not do that either. So, I'll simply close by saying that eventually, despite your efforts to the contrary, THE TRUTH WILL OUT!

Contemptuously yours,


Ted Gandolfo.



Received this on Jan. 10, 1983
Ted Gandolfo

212

U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

RECEIVED

1983 JAN -5 PM 3:00

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BILL GREEN

Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 3, 1983

The Honorable Bill Green
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Reference is made to your recent referral to the Department of Justice of a letter from Mr. Ted Gandolfo, Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee. You will recall that Mr. Gandolfo indicated that "suppressed information" connects "contract employees" of the Central Intelligence Agency with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) reported its conclusion in a 1979 final report that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was probably the result of a conspiracy. That conclusion was based upon the opinions of experts hired by the Committee who reported a 95 percent probability that noises on a police communications dictabelt were caused by gunshots originating at two different locations almost simultaneously.

The HSCA conducted extensive hearings and financed expert research addressing numerous assassination conspiracy theories. It appears that the conspiracy theory raised by Mr. Gandolfo was considered by the HSCA and was expressly found to be without merit by that Congressional body. The HSCA final report explains in detail the reasons for the HSCA determination that the CIA was not involved in the assassination.

The Department was asked by the Committee, in its final report, to reevaluate the acoustical evidence, which was the basis of the Committee's assassination conspiracy theory. There was some concern regarding the accuracy of the Committee's acoustical research because of the severe time constraints imposed upon the researchers performing that work. The Department arranged for a review of the methodology of the HSCA experts, but not of the evidence itself, by the FBI Technical Services Division. The Department also contracted for a much broader National Research Council (part of the National Academy of Sciences) study of the acoustical evidence. In order to assure independence from Department of Justice control of the National Academy of Sciences study, the National Science Foundation was asked to oversee the

The FBI released a report on December 1, 1980, which concluded that the HSCA experts had not scientifically proven their conclusion that gunshots were fired from two different locations at the time of the assassination. In May, 1982, the National Academy of Sciences panel completed its work. Its 96-page report included an analysis of the actual acoustical evidence, the previous HSCA work, and the FBI report. While it was critical of aspects of both the HSCA and FBI studies which preceded it, its primary conclusion was that the HSCA acoustics research methodology was flawed. The Academy determined that the HSCA acoustical analyses did not demonstrate that there was a grassy knoll shot and that the sounds evaluated by the HSCA experts actually occurred one minute after the President was shot and the motorcade had been instructed to go to the hospital. Further, the National Academy of Sciences report discouraged undertaking additional expensive studies of this evidence on the grounds that the strength of the demonstration that the HSCA conclusion was invalid was so great that the likely results of further study would not justify the cost of such research. It should be noted that the National Academy of Sciences questioned both the HSCA experts and the FBI experts during the course of its two-year study, and that it confronted both groups with its intended conclusions before they were finalized. The National Academy of Sciences has advised the Department that neither group of experts provided any contradictory explanation for the findings of the National Academy of Sciences. Since the May, 1982, publication of the report, neither the FBI nor HSCA experts have contacted the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice with any alternative explanation for the findings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In view of the HSCA request that the Department review the scientific evidence in the assassination investigation, and in view of the preliminary results of that review, the Department has not expanded its current investigation to encompass theories found to be without merit by the HSCA. Absent additional requests from the Congress, similar to the referrals in the HSCA final report, and absent the discovery of new evidence, the Department does not intend to further explore allegations of C.I.A. involvement in the assassination.

The Department is now reviewing the results of all investigative activity in this matter, including the HSCA hearings and final report, acoustical study results, and FBI reports. It is our intention to make a full report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, since the HSCA no longer exists, early next year. I have requested that a copy of that report be provided to your office.

Your interest in this matter of mutual concern is appreciated.

Sincerely,

D. Lowell Jensen

D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

U.S. Department of Justice
Criminal Division
Washington, D.C. 20530

ATT: D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:
Assassination Information
Committee -
1214 First Avenue -
New York, N.Y. 10028
(212) 288-1596
January 12, 1983

Dear Mr. Jensen,

I am responding to your letter to Congressman Bill Green dated January 3, 1983 relating to my assertion that the Central Intelligence Agency was deeply involved and directly responsible in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas.

In your afore-mentioned letter, you state, "It appears that the conspiracy theory raised by Mr. Gandolfo was considered by the HSCA and was expressly found to be WITHOUT MERIT by that Congressional body. The HSCA final report explains in detail the reasons for the HSCA determination that the CIA was NOT involved in the assassination." After this statement by you, you devote the entire following statements to the acoustical evidence adduced by the HSCA, and NEVER AGAIN return to my charges. In a masterful display of unrelated gobbledygook, and I cannot believe it yet, you entirely FAIL to ask ANY related RELEVANT questions pertaining to my assertions. Even a moron would see through the thinly veiled obfuscations of ANY interest at all in my assertions, to wit: If your Injustice Department was truly interested in the reasons for my charges, wouldn't you have asked something like, "What evidence does Mr. Gandolfo have to substantiate the validity of his assertions?" I can tell you are really interested in what I may say in this regard, aren't you? But I must confess that this latest unconcern by you was and is entirely predictable by me, knowing of the Injustice Department's long-time dedication to suppress the truth in this matter. A classic example is the illegal tactics you employed against Jim Garrison to thwart his truthful investigation and findings re the Clay Shaw trial in 1969.

Getting back to your "answer" relating to my assertions, let's analyze them now. In refutation to your "answer" relating to the HSCA "clearing and absolving" the CIA of the crime, some comments are necessary:

1) The HSCA, in general, and chief counsel Robert Blakey in particular, perpetrated the greatest FRAUD ever witnessed. I have PROOF that Blakey definitely suppressed KNOWNCIA complicity in the crime, to wit:

a) He completely suppressed the Cliff Penton Report, obtained by Jim Garrison, which PROVES BEYOND QUESTION CIA direct involvement in the crime, and I mean OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF THAT!! Blakey, a Company man beyond question, was sent there to the HSCA to put distance between the CIA and the crime. I have documents in my personal files which PROVE THIS FACT!! Therefore, your statement about the HSCA absolving the CIA is entirely and absolutely MEANINGLESS. Blakey's appointment to that most important position on the HSCA is comparable to Nelson Rockefeller's appointment to the Rockefeller Commission "to investigate intelligence agencies possible involvement in the JFK murder". (turn)

page 2

Blakey's and Rockefeller's appointments are synonymous with "the dogs guarding the sheep".


I have it on unimpeachable authority from several persons employed by the HSCA, who will remain nameless because they, through Flakey, were FORCED to sign CIA and FBI originated "Non-Disclosure*agreements", an insidious, illegal document which, never-the-less CONTROLLED ALL INFORMATION relating to the CIA complicity, as well as FBI complicity in the King murder. This was an ingenious move by the Agency and Bureau which resulted in the many odious suppressions of the Known evidence of Intelligence Agencies direct involvements in the 2 crimes under "investigation". So, despite your double-talk wherein you cite the HSCA conclusions, as though it was a TRUTHFUL "investigation", is totally subterfugeous and meaningless to me, and others.

Therefore, I am now asking for your consent to have me appear before your department of "Justice", and, if allowed to do so, I will offer and present absolute PROOF of CIA involvement in the JFK assassination, and also, absolute proof that the HSCA, directed by Robert Blakey, issued a completely erroneous report to the American people in 1979.

Therefore, if, for the first time in my memory concerning the JFK assassination, the Injustice Department is interested in, and willing thereafter to inform the public of these, my, disclosures, I will see you in Washington, pending approval from you and the Department.

Hoping to hear from you very soon, I remain,

Very truly yours,


Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.G.

* The date is now August 17, 1983. I STILL have never received ANY answer to this letter sent more that 7 months ago to the Injustice Dept.

Ad-nauseum..T.G.

r. Ronald Reagan-
resident Of The United States
600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: Assassination
Information Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York. N.Y. 10021

October 18, 1984

Dear Mr. President,

I am sending you this letter in the hope that a grave miscarriage of justice may yet be rectified. It involves the fact that very crucial evidence and information relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been, and definitely was, entirely SUPPRESSED and COVERED UP by the House Select Committee On Assassinations in general and by their Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey in particular. I will refer to just one, of many, items of evidence in this regard. On February 11, 1978, I had a long conversation with former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, Jim Garrison. During our conversation, which I tape recorded, he told me that the House Select Committee On Assassinations had sent a team of investigators, headed by Mr. Clifford Fenton, to Mr. Garrison's office to secure the evidence that Garrison had accumulated during his investigation of the JFK assassination in 1967 to 1969. Garrison told me that as a result of the Committee's

investigators viewing and hearing this evidence, that they ALL were convinced of a MASSIVE conspiracy to murder JFK. Garrison also told me that these investigators also obtained, from New Orleans and also Clinton, Louisiana, TAPE-RECORDINGS in which the assassination of JFK were being discussed by, among others, voices which were identified as being CONTRACT EMPLOYEES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. On these tapes, they were discussing how they were going to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas on November-22, 1963.

This evidence was COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED in the House Select Committee On Assassinations Final Report and, in fact, Mr. Garrison was not even called to testify before the Committee at all!!

I am certain you will agree that this matter should be immediately brought to the attention of the Justice Department so that they may conduct a full investigation into this most important suppressed information and evidence so that the interests of TRUTH, HONOR AND JUSTICE may fully be served. I will be only too happy to send to you a copy of this most important conversation between Mr. Garrison and myself.

Therefore, I implore you to write to me as soon as possible regarding the above information which I trust you'll agree with me is of the most VITAL IMPORTANCE! I will be awaiting your, I sincerely hope soon, reply

Ted Gandolfo

Respectfully yours, Ted Gandolfo: A.I

THE FINAL COVER UP

BY RICHARD E. SPRAGUE
HARTSDALE, N.Y.

How The CIA Controlled The House Select Committee On
Assassinations

Introduction:

The final report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), issued in 1979, concluded that a conspiracy existed in the assassination of President Kennedy. This news should have delighted hundreds of researchers who had disagreed with the no-conspiracy finding of the Warren Commission. The fact that it did not, is due to the HSCA conspiracy being a simple one, with Lee Harvey Oswald still firing all but one of the shots from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building. The existence of another shooter and another shot, from the grassy knoll, was "proved" by the HSCA, based primarily on acoustical evidence presented in the very last month of their public hearings. Dr. Robert Blakey and Richard Billings, chief counsel and report editor for the HSCA, co-authored, in 1981, a book, "The Plot to Kill the President", following the publication of the HSCA's final report. The book claimed that the other shooter and Oswald were part of a Mafia plot to kill JFK.

To over simplify the current (1985) situation, most JFK researchers feel that the American public had been deceived once again. The HSCA reaffirmed all but one of the Warren Commission's findings, including even the famed single bullet theory. The simplified conspiracy finding is now subject to review by the

Justice Department and the FBI because it is based on very questionable acoustical evidence. Justice commissioned the so-called Ramsey Panel¹ to review this evidence, in 1981, under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. It found no evidence from the acoustics that a grassy knoll shot was fired. So, we are back to no-conspiracy and Oswald being the lone assassin. And even if there was a conspiracy, Blakey claims it involved the Mafia and not the CIA. The HSCA report and all of its volumes of evidence omitting any reference to CIA involvement, concluded that the CIA was not involved, and did not reveal any evidence that the HSCA staff had collected showing that CIA people murdered JFK, and that the CIA has been covering up that fact ever since.

Any followers of CIA activities connected with the JFK assassination, since 1963, must ask the question, how did they do it? How did the CIA turn things completely around from the 1976 days when Henry Gonzalez, Thomas Downing, Richard A. Sprague, Robert Tanenbaum, Cliff Fenton and others were pursuing the truth about the assassination, to essentially the same status as when the Warren Commission finished its work? How did they produce the final cover up? The answer is that the CIA controlled the HSCA and its investigation and findings from the early part of 1977, forward. The methods they used were as clever and devious as any they had used previously to control the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the Garrison Investigation, the

¹ Chaired by Prof. Norman Ramsey of M.I.T.

Schweiker/Hart Committee² and the efforts of independent researchers.

The Situation in 1976:

In 1976, Henry Gonzalez, member of the House from Texas, and Thomas Downing from Virginia, were both convinced there was a massive conspiracy in the JFK assassination. They introduced a joint bill in the House which resulted in the formation of the HSCA and an investigation of the JFK and King assassinations. Gonzalez believed there were at least four conspiracies in the assassinations of JFK, MLK, Robert Kennedy and in the attempted assassination of George Wallace. He introduced an original bill to have the House investigate all four and the cover ups and links among them. Downing was primarily interested in the JFK case and his original bill dealt only with that conspiracy. Mark Lane and his committee members and supporters around the country joined forces with Coretta King and the Black Caucus in the House to pressure Congressmen and Tip O'Neill to investigate the King and John Kennedy assassinations. The net result was a merging of the Gonzalez and Downing bills into a Final HSCA bill dealing with only two of the cases.

In the fall of 1976, with Downing as chairman, the HSCA selected Richard A. Sprague, from the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, to be chief counsel. Sprague hired four professional investigators and criminal lawyers from New York

² Senators Richard Schweiker of Penn. and Gary Hart of Colo. formed a sub-committee of the Church Committee.

City. They were very good and completely independent of the CIA and FBI, having been trained by one of the best professionals in the business, D.A. Frank Hogan of New York.

Sprague and his JFK team, headed by Bob Tanenbaum, attorney, and Cliff Fenton, chief detective, were going after the real assassins and their bosses, whether this led them to the CIA or FBI or anywhere else. Sprague had already made it clear to the HSCA that he would investigate CIA involvement, and subpoena CIA people, documents and other information, whether classified or not. He had also had meetings with several researchers, including the author, and made it known privately that he was going to use the talent and knowledge of every reliable researcher on a consulting basis. He had contacted Jim Garrison in New Orleans and informed him he would be following up on all of his information and leads. He had initiated an investigation of the CIA activities in Mexico City connected with the JFK assassination, including information supplied to Sprague by the author.³

R.A. Sprague and Tanenbaum were aware of the CIA connections of the individuals involved in the JFK assassination in Dealey Plaza, in Mexico City, in New Orleans and in the Florida Keys. They had, in November 1966, exposed the entire HSCA staff to all of the photographic evidence showing these people in Dealey Plaza and elsewhere. They were aware of the assassination planning meetings held by CIA people in Mexico City and knew who the higher level conspirators were. They had initiated searches for

³ The author became an advisor to Richard A. Sprague as soon as he was appointed counsel to the HSCA.

the real assassins; Frenchy, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence, Fred Lee Crisman, Jim Braden, Jim Hicks, et al. They were planning to interview CIA contract agents, Richard Case Nagell, Harry Dean, Gordon Novel, Ronald Augustinovich, Mary Hope and Guy Gabaldin. Cliff Fenton had been appointed head of a team of investigators to follow up on the New Orleans part of the conspiracy which had included CIA agents and people; Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, Guy Bannister, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Gordon Novel and others. They were going to contact people who had attended assassination planning meetings in New Orleans.

From the photographic evidence surrounding the sixth floor window, as well as the grassy knoll, Sprague, Tanenbaum and most of the staff knew Oswald had not fired any shots, knew no shots came from the sixth floor window, and knew there had been shots from the Dal Tex Building and the knoll. They knew the single bullet theory was not true, and knew there had been a well planned crossfire in Dealey Plaza. They were not planning to waste a lot of time reviewing and rehashing the Dealey Plaza evidence, except as it might lead to the real assassins.

They had set up an investigation in Florida and the Keys, of the evidence and leads developed in 1967 by Garrison. Gaeton Fonzi was in charge of that part of Sprague's team. They were going to check out the people in the CIA that had been running and funding the No Name Key group and other Anti-Castro groups. Seymour, Santana, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Jerry Patrick Hemming,

Loran Hall, Lawrence Howard, Frenchy and Cubans, Rolando Masferrer and Carlos Prio Socarras were to be found and interrogated.

Tanenbaum and his research team had seen the photo collection of Dick Billings from Life Magazine which was, by 1976, deposited in the Georgetown University Library's JFK assassination collection. The No Name Key people and others showing up in Garrison's investigation appeared in these photos with high level CIA agents.

In 1977, Henry Gonzalez, who was far more supportive of a CIA conspiracy idea than Tom Downing, was to become chairman of the HSCA. Downing did not run for re-election in 1976 and was retiring. At that point, December 1976, Gonzalez and Sprague were of the same mind and getting along fine. Researchers were very pleased with the way things were going and believed Sprague would expose the CIA's involvement in the JFK cover up.

The CIA's Problem:

Given this background of the HSCA status in late 1976, it can easily be seen that the CIA was up against much more serious opposition than it ever had been before in the JFK murder and cover up. They had ruined Jim Garrison's reputation and curtailed his investigation by various dirty trick means. They had been in solid control of the Warren Commission by the simple expedient of having four of the Commissioners belonging to them; Dulles, Ford, McCloy and Russell. They were also able to kill enough people who knew the truth, to slow down any truth seeking that might have taken place. They also hid documents, destroyed and altered evidence, lied about other evidence, and bald facedly

(Dulles) admitted that they wouldn't tell the President or the Commission if Lee Harvey Oswald had been a CIA agent (which he had been). In the Rockefeller Commission situation they were in complete control of that attempt to reinforce the Warren Commission's findings. And in the Church Committee investigation, the Schweiker/Hart subcommittee on the JFK case was very limited and controlled in what they could do.

But in the new situation, in Richard A. Sprague and his professionals with so much knowledge of the CIA's role in the murder and the cover up, they faced a crisis. They knew they had to do several things to turn it around and to continue to keep the American public from realizing what was happening. Here is what they had to do:

- CIA * 1. Get rid of Richard A. Sprague. *Thru the CIA controlled news media,*
2. Get rid of Henry Gonzalez.
3. Get rid of Sprague's key men or keep them away from CIA evidence or keep them quiet.
- * 4. Install their own chief counsel to control the investigation. *Clay*
5. Elect a new HSCA chairman who would go along, or who could be fooled.
- * 6. Cut off all Sprague's investigations of CIA people. Make sure none of the people were found or bury any testimony that had already been found, or murder CIA people who might talk. *Dr. Morandillo et al*
7. Keep the committee members from knowing what was happening and segregate the investigation from them.

8. Create a new investigative environment whose purpose would be to confirm all of the findings of the Warren Commission and divert attention away from the, who-did-it-and-why approach.
- * 9. Control the committee staff in such a way as to keep any of them from revealing what they already knew about CIA involvement. *By use of the "non-Disclosure agreement"*
10. Control committee consultants in the same way, and staff members who might leave or who might be fired.
11. Continue to control the media in such a way as to reinforce all of the above.
12. Continue to murder witnesses or assassins in emergency situations if necessary.

The CIA successfully did all twelve of these things. The techniques they used were much more subtle and devious than those they had used before, although they did continue with murders of potential HSCA witnesses and with media control.

How The CIA-Did It:

The first step taken by the CIA was to use the media they control, along with some members of Congress they control, and two planted agents on the staff of and consulting for, Henry Gonzalez, to get rid of both Henry and Richard A. Sprague. In taking this step, they used the old Roman approach of divide and conquer. They made Gonzalez and his closest staff assistant, Gail Beagle, believe that Sprague was a CIA agent and that Gonzalez must get rid of him. They also made Gonzalez believe that some of his other associates, both in the HSCA and outside,

C/A

were CIA agents. At the same time, they^A used the media to attack Sprague mercilessly. The key people in doing this attack on Sprague were three CIA reporters, George Lardner of the Washington Post, Mr. Burnham of The New York Times, and Jeremiah O'Leary of the Washington Star. In all HSCA committee meetings and in Rules Committee and Finance Committee meetings, these three reporters sat next to each other, passed notes back and forth, and wrote articles continually attacking and undermining both Sprague and Gonzalez, as well as the entire committee. the CIA had the support of top management in all three news organizations in doing this.

Gonzalez eventually tried to fire Sprague, was over-ruled by the committee, and then resigned from the committee. Sprague eventually resigned, because it became obvious that the CIA controlled members of the Finance and Rules Committees and other CIA allies in the House, were going to kill the committee unless he resigned. There are many more details to this story, which requires a book to describe. Suffice it to say, the CIA accomplished their first two goals by March 1977. The next steps were to install a CIA controlled chief counsel and to get a chairman elected who could be fooled or coerced into appointing such a counsel. Lewis Stokes was a perfect choice for chairman. He was, and probably still is, a good and honest man. But he was completely bamboozled by what the CIA did and is still doing. The selection and implementation of a CIA man as chief counsel had to be done in an extremely subtle manner. It could not be obvious to anyone that he was a CIA man. Stokes and the other

committee members had to be fooled into believing they had made the choice, and had picked a good man. Professor Robert Blakey, an apparently scientifically oriented, academic person, with a history of work against organized crime, was the perfect CIA choice. Once Dr. Blakey took over as chief counsel, he accomplished goals numbered 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 very nicely. The fourth and fifth goals having been achieved, Blakey set about the other parts of his assignment very rapidly after he arrived. For Goal 3, he fired Bob Tanenbaum, Bob Lehner, and Donovan Gay, three loyal Sprague supporters, quickly.

The Non Disclosure Agreement:

The most important weapon used by the CIA and Blakey to pursue goals 9 and 10 was instituted within one week after Blakey arrived. It is by far the most subtle and far reaching technique used by the CIA to date. It is called the "Non Disclosure Agreement" and it was signed by all members of the committee, all staff members including Blakey, all consultants to the committee, and several independent researchers who met with Blakey in 1977. Signing the agreement was a condition for continued employment on the committee staff or for continuing consulting on a contract basis. The choice was, sign or get out. The author signed the agreement in July 1977, without realizing its implications at the time, in order to continue as a consultant. The agreement is reproduced in full at the end of this article. The author's consulting help was never sought after that and the obvious objective was to silence a consultant and not use

1 Exhibit A

his services.

This CIA weapon has several parts. First, it binds the signer, if a consultant, to never reveal that he is working for the committee (see paragraph 13). Second, it prevents the signer from ever revealing to anyone in perpetuity, any information he has learned about the committee's work as a result of working for the committee (see paragraphs 2 and 12). Third, it gives the committee and the House, after the committee terminates, the power to take legal action against the signer, in a court named by the committee or the House, in case the committee believes the signer has violated the agreement. Fourth, the signer agrees to pay the court costs for such a suit in the event he loses the suit (see paragraphs 14 and 15).

These four parts are enough to scare most researchers or staff members who signed it into silence forever about what they learned. The agreement is insidious in that the signer is, in effect, giving away his constitutional rights. Some lawyers who have seen the agreement, including Richard A. Sprague, have expressed the opinion it is an illegal agreement in violation of the Constitution and several Constitutional amendments. Whether it is illegal or not, most staff members and all consultants who signed it have remained silent, even after three and a half years beyond the life of the committee. There are only two exceptions, the author and Gaeton Fonzi, who published a lengthy article about the HSCA cover up in the Washingtonian magazine in 1981.

The most insidious parts of the agreement, however, are paragraphs 2, 3 and 7, which give the CIA very effective control over what the committee could and could not do with so called

"classified" information. The director of the CIA is given authority to determine, in effect, what information shall remain classified and therefore unavailable to nearly everyone. The signer of the agreement, and remember, this includes all of the Congressman and women who were members of the committee, agrees not to reveal or discuss any information that the CIA decides he should not. The chairman of the committee supposedly has the final say on what information is included, but in practice, even an intelligent and gutsy chairman would not be likely to override the CIA. Lewis Stokes did not attempt any final decisions. In fact, the CIA did not have to do very much under these clauses. The fact that Blakey was their man and kept nearly all of the CIA sensitive information, evidence, and witnesses away from the committee members was all that was necessary. Stokes never knew what he should have argued about with the CIA director. It is this document which proves beyond doubt that the CIA controlled the HSCA.

The author attempted to point out to Stokes in a letter dated February 10, 1978, copy included herein,¹ the type of control the agreement gives the CIA over the HSCA. Stokes replied in a March 16, 1978 letter, also included herein,² that he retained ultimate authority and was not bound by the opinion of the Central Intelligence Director. He also claimed that paragraphs 12 and 14, on extending the agreement in perpetuity and giving the government the right to file a civil suit in which the signer will pay all costs, were legal. He said in the letter that the purpose of the agreement was to give the HSCA control over the

1 Exhibit B

2 Exhibit C

conduct of the investigation including control over the ultimate disclosure of information to the American public. That is a key admission about what has actually happened. The only question is, who is controlling the information in the heads of the staff investigators who discovered CIA involvement? Was Louis Stokes working for the public or for the CIA?

Examples of CIA-Control:

Some specific examples will serve to illustrate how well the CIA techniques have worked and are still working.

Garrison Evidence and Witnesses Example:

As mentioned earlier, when Blakey arrived, an investigating team headed by Cliff Fenton, reporting to Bob Tanenbaum, had already been hard at work tracking down leads to the CIA conspirators generated by Jim Garrison's investigation in New Orleans. This team eventually had four investigators, all professionals, and their work led them to believe that the CIA people in New Orleans had been involved in a large conspiracy to assassinate JFK. As Garrison told Ted Gandolfo, a New York City researcher, the Fenton team went much further than Garrison, in locating witnesses and other evidence of assassination planning meetings held in New Orleans, Mexico City and Dallas. In fact, they found a CIA man who attended those meetings, and who was willing to testify before the committee. The evidence was far more convincing than the testimony presented at the trial of Clay Shaw. The Shaw Trial, CIA people were involved in meetings in addition to the one brought out in the trial. Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, William Seymour and others were involved. Fenton's team

discovered a lot of other facts about how the CIA people planned and carried out ^{the} assassination . Their report about the conspiracy was solid and convincing and they were convinced. The CIA, through Robert Blakey, buried the Fenton report. Committee members were not told about the team's findings. The evidence was not included in the HSCA report, nor was it even referred to in the volumes. The witnesses in New Orleans were never called to testify. That included the CIA man at the meetings. Fenton and the other three members of his team, having signed the non-disclosure agreement, were legally sworn to secrecy, or at least they thought so. To this day they refuse to discuss anything with anybody.

There may also have been threats of physical violence against them. There is no way to determine this. However, Fenton and the others are well aware of the witnesses that the CIA murdered just before they were about to testify before the HSCA. These included: William Sullivan, the FBI deputy under J. Edgar Hoover, who headed Division V, the domestic intelligence division; George de Morenschildt, Oswald's CIA contact in Dallas; John Roselli, the Mafia man involved in the CIA plots to assassinate Castro; Regis Kennedy, the FBI agent who knew a lot about Clay Shaw, alias Clay Bertrand, in New Orleans and who was one of Lee Harvey Oswald's FBI contacts; Rolando Masferrer, an anti-Castro Cuban murdered in Miami; and Carlos Prio Socarras, former Cuban premier, killed in his garage in Miami.

With the knowledge of these murders, Fenton and his team would not have required any more than a gentle hint, to keep quiet.

Frenchy Example:

The "tramp", Frenchy, who appears in seven photos taken in Dealey Plaza, is one of the most important CIA individuals in the JFK assassination. Researcher Bill Turner discovered that Frenchy had been in the Florida Keys working with CIA sponsored anti-Castro groups. Richard A. Sprague and Bob Tanenbaum knew about his role, and intended to go after him when the HSCA restored its subpoena power and obtained enough money. They were aware of the evidence that Frenchy fired the fatal shot from the grassy knoll. They had assigned a team of investigators to follow a lead to Frenchy provided by the author in the early part of 1977.

Unfortunately, the CIA managed to keep both the subpoena power and the funds away from the committee until after they had forced the resignations of Gonzalez, Sprague and Tanenbaum. The power and funds were restored after Stokes was elected and after they installed their own man, Blakey. The investigative team remained, however, and they did search for and find Frenchy. But Blakey and the CIA suppressed that fact, and suppressed anything they may have learned from Frenchy. He is not mentioned in the report and was not called as a witness. The author dares not reveal the source of the above information because of the danger to staff people from the non-disclosure agreement.

Nagell, Dean, Novel, and Augustinovich:

The Garrison investigation and a subsequent series of investigations by the author and other members of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations in 1967 - 1973, turned up several witnesses who were willing to talk privately about the CIA assassination team that murdered JFK. Harry Dean and Richard Case Nagell had been Lee Harvey Oswald's CIA contacts while he was in Mexico City and knew about assassination planning meetings held in Guy Gabaldin's apartment. Dean knew about William Seymour, CIA contract agent, attending those meetings and how Seymour had been pretending to be Oswald on many occasions. Novel knew how the CIA had covered up the truth about the assassination and how they went to extreme lengths to ruin Jim Garrison and his investigation. Novel had been employed by the CIA in this effort. Augustinovich and his friend, Mary Hope, had attended some of the Mexico City meetings.

Richard Russell and the author tracked down all four of these witnesses prior to the arrival of Robert Blakey at the HSCA. Russell interviewed them and knew they would be willing to talk, given protection and some form of immunity. The author presented their names and their involvement to Richard A. Sprague, Henry Gonzalez, Lewis Stokes and Robert Tanenbaum in the fall of 1976. This was done as part of the author's consulting assignment for the HSCA. The names were in a memorandum to Sprague, which outlined the overall JFK conspiracy and the CIA's role, along with a recommendation of the sequence in which witnesses should be called. The idea was to base each witness interrogation on

what had been established from interviewing prior witnesses, working slowly from cooperative witnesses, to non-cooperative witnesses, to actual assassins, to higher level CIA people.⁽¹⁾ The highest level people, E. Howard Hunt and Richard Helms, would be faced with accusers.

As indicated earlier, Sprague and Tanenbaum could do nothing and did nothing up to the day they left. By early 1978 it became obvious that Blakey had done nothing about calling these CIA witnesses. The author initiated a series of letter exchanges with Blakey and Stokes, reminding them of these witnesses, and the possibility that their lives could be in danger prior to their being interviewed by HSCA. Dick Russell had obtained an agreement from Nagell to meet with the committee, but no contact had been made up to April 5, 1978, the date of the author's first letter to Stokes on this subject.⁽²⁾ Nagell was hiding in fear of his children's lives, not so much his own life. He was a real CIA agent and knew how they operated. Russell was the only person who knew where Nagell was. In the April 5th letter, a recommendation was given to Stokes that the committee contact Nagell

The names of the witnesses in the memo were:

Cooperative Witnesses:

Louis Ivon (Jim Garrison's chief investigator), Richard Case Nagell, Harry Dean, James Hosty, Carver Gaten, Warren du Bruys, Regis Kennedy, Victor Marchetti, Gordon Novel, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Harry Williams, Jim Garrison, George de Mohrenschildt, Charles Sensenay, Mary Hope and Jim Hicks.

Non-Cooperative Witnesses or Assassins or Planners:

Ronald Augustinovich, Guy Gabaldin, Frenchy, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence, Jim Braden, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Fred Lee Crisman, William Sullivan, Carlos Prio Socarras, Rolando Masferrer, Major L.M. Bloomfield, E. Howard Hunt, and Richard Helms.

through Russell, and contact the other witnesses on the original list. Stokes wrote on May 15, 1978⁽¹⁾ that the Nagell matter had been referred to Blakey for follow up. Blakey never mentioned it by telephone or by letter.

By September 1978, when the public hearings had begun, there was no indication that Blakey was going to call the CIA witness. Nagell was standing by but had not been contacted. The published, intended witness list did not contain any of these CIA names. The author wrote to Stokes and Representative Yvonne Burke on September 22 and 23, 1978⁽²⁾ (copies reproduced herein) expressing dissatisfaction with the committee's failure to call the CIA witnesses, and suggesting that if they did not, history would eventually catch up with them. The names were repeated in the letter to Burke, and specific mention made that the committee had never contacted Richard Case Nagell. Louis Stokes sent back a letter dated October 10, 1978⁽³⁾ which is reproduced at the end of this article. It is what one might call a non-answer, stating "that the committee will make every effort to tell the whole story to the American people." Seven years later (1985) it can be said that the committee did not make an effort to call the most important witnesses and therefore did not tell the whole story. Nor did their report even mention these witnesses or any of the evidence exposed earlier by the CIA or Jim Garrison. Louis Stokes was either totally fooled or he is part of the CIA's cover up.

The author responded to Stokes' non-answer letter of October 10th with two more letters, dated October 30, 1978 and November

(1) Exhibit E

(2) Exhibits F & G

(3) Exhibit H

24, 1978, both reproduced herein. Stokes finally answered them on December 4, 1978 with another non-answer letter, herein reproduced.⁽²⁾ He says the committee cannot reveal the procedure of the investigation or the names of those persons who will be called to testify before the committee. This implies they were planning to call more witnesses in December 1978. The committee's life ended on January 1, 1979. The CIA witnesses were never called nor ever mentioned right up to the very end and the report was silent about them.

The Umbrella Man:

One last example illustrates the way the CIA and Blakey worked together to cancel out any evidence linking the CIA people and/or techniques used in the JFK assassination. For many years, various researchers, including Josiah Thompson³ and the author had speculated about the role of a man appearing in the photographs in Dealey Plaza with an open umbrella. He became known as "The Umbrella Man", or TUM for short. Thompson speculated that TUM had been giving the various shooters in Dealey Plaza visual signals with the umbrella, and the author agreed this could have been true.

In 1976, the Church committee took the public testimony of Charles Sensenay, a CIA contract weapons employee at the Army Chemical Center in Ft. Detrick, MD. Sensenay described a system used by the CIA in Vietnam and elsewhere, for killing or paralyzing people with poisons carried in self propelled Fle-

(1) Exhibits I and J (2) Exhibit K

³ In the book "Six Seconds in Dallas", Thompson showed photos of TUM.

chette darts. The darts were self propelled like solid fuel rockets and launched silently and unobtrusively from a number of devices, including an umbrella. A CIA catalog of available secret weapons shows a photograph of the umbrella launching device and photos of the Flechettes which were self propelled from one of the hollow spokes of the umbrella. They could even be launched through soda straws.

Researcher Robert Cutler, former D.I.A. officer, L. Fletcher Prouty, and the author did some additional research on the photographic evidence and the weapon system, especially research on the movements of JFK in the Zapruder film and various photos of TUM and a friend he had with him in Dealey Plaza. The friend had a two way radio device. As a result of this research, an article was published in Gallery magazine in June 1978. The article presented the hypothesis that TUM launched, from his umbrella, a poison Flachette at JFK, which struck him in the throat at Zapruder frame 189, causing complete paralysis of his upper body, hands, arms, shoulders and head, in less than two seconds. The photos show this paralysis and the timing matches the testimony given by Sensenay about how fast the CIA poison works and what its paralyzing effects look like.

Whether one agrees with this hypothesis or not is incidental to what Blakey and the HSCA did in reaction to it. Until the summer of 1977, official investigators for the HSCA, or any of its predecessors, had shown no more than passing curious interest in TUM. They just paid no attention and did not take the researcher's ideas seriously. On August 8, 1977, the author

informed Robert Blakey, in a letter of that date, about the TUM hypothesis. The letter concerned a discussion the author and Blakey had on July 21, 1977, two days after the non-disclosure agreement had been signed. Blakey had said that if there was a conspiracy it would not have involved a very large number of people. He was probably already laying the foundation for a small, Mafia type, conspiracy involving Oswald and a Mafia friend, backed by a few Mafia Dons.

The August 8th letter maintained that the CIA had been involved and that it had been a massive intelligence operation, rather than a conspiracy in the sense Blakey was using the term. The CIA Flechette, umbrella launching weapons system, if indeed it had been used by TUM, the letter pointed out, would be solid proof of high level CIA involvement, since that system would not have been available to lower level agents or contract people.

Blakey did not respond right away to this letter and the author decided to make the TUM hypothesis public by publishing it with Cutler as co-author, in the spring of 1978, in Gallery magazine. Contact was also made with Senator Richard Schweiker who had been the member of the Church Committee responsible for interrogating Charles Sensenay. Schweiker agreed to try and find out from Sensenay what had happened to the umbrella launchers he had constructed for the CIA; that is, who in the CIA had had access to a launcher.

The information to be published in Gallery had been generated by Bob Cutler and the author independently of any information obtained from the HSCA, but the safest approach seemed to be an

application to them for permission to print the article under the terms of the non-disclosure agreement. So, on January 9, 1978, the author submitted a draft of the Gallery article to Blakey and, on January 16, 1978,⁽¹⁾ wrote back stating that publishing the article would not violate the terms of the non-disclosure agreement. The article was published in the June 1978 issue of Gallery which actually appeared in May 1978. Blakey knew in advance when it would appear.

On August 3, 1978, the author wrote to Blakey stating that photographic evidence showed a high probability that TUM was actually Gordon Novel, the CIA contract agent from New Orleans, who had been hired to ruin the Garrison investigation.⁽²⁾ The reason that some new photo evidence was just then coming to light was that the committee had discovered a never before seen film of TUM and had released a frame from this film to the press in July 1978. Shortly after the TUM photo was released by the HSCA, with an appeal to him to come forward, an unknown caller contacted Penn Jones in Texas to tell him he knew who TUM was. Penn visited Louis Witt, having been given his address, and upon seeing him, jumped to the conclusion that he was TUM. This led to Mr. Witt appearing before the committee in their televised hearings and making the claim he was TUM. He showed the umbrella on TV that he claimed he used.

It was immediately obvious to Bob Cutler and the author that Witt was not TUM. He displayed the umbrella he said he had used in Dealey Plaza and it contained the wrong number of spokes. His height, weight and facial appearance did not match TUM's, and his

(1) Exhibit L (2) Exhibit M

description of his actions did not match at all the actions TUM took, as shown in the photos. On November 24, 1978, the author wrote to Stokes telling him he had been fooled by a CIA plant, or by his own staff, planting Mr. Witt, and that he should call Gordon Novel as a witness because it was likely that Novel was TUM. HSCA never did call Novel as a witness. Novel had visited the HSCA during the days Richard A. Sprague was still there, but he had not mentioned being in Dealey Plaza or that the CIA had hired him to ruin Garrison. Blakey and Stokes avoided contacting Novel.

Now, the important thing to focus on, in this example, is the sequence of events. The HSCA had done nothing about TUM until they were faced with the possibility of a public article linking TUM to the CIA through a CIA weapons system and through Gordon Novel. They also found out that Senator Schweiker was looking into the CIA end of it. At about the time the Gallery article was being widely read, the HSCA suddenly released to the press a photo of TUM and asked that people identify him or that he come forward. The photo did not show his umbrella or where he was sitting in Dealey Plaza, nor did the release mention the umbrella or the theories about it. Just his photo. An earlier photo used by Cutler and the author to identify Novel as TUM was not released.

In a surprisingly short time after the photo appeared, an unknown person calls a well known researcher and leads him to Louis Witt. Witt in turn lies about who he was and where he was, by claiming to be TUM. Blakey and the committee put Witt on

center stage as though it was a play, and eliminate the TUM problem by pulling off a charade. The fine hand of the CIA can be seen in this whole series of linked events. Blakey had to have known what was going on, and he knows today that Witt was not TUM and the high probability that TUM was Gordon Novel, CIA agent.

The extreme lengths that the CIA and Blakey went to in this charade, made one believe that the umbrella probably was the Charles Sensenay weapon. Otherwise, why bother with TUM?

Goal Number Eight:

What has been presented so far in this article represents direct actions by the CIA to cover up CIA involvement. Blakey played another important role and that was to achieve the eighth goal on the list, namely to change the public impression of HSCA's main effort. Researchers who concentrated on attacking the Warren Commission's Dealey Plaza or Tippitt shooting findings had created a big problem. If Oswald had fired no shots, then he must have been framed. If Oswald was framed, the evidence against him was planted, and multiple gunmen were involved. All of this line of reasoning would point to a very well organized and very well planned conspiracy, which would in turn point to an intelligence style involvement.

So, Blakey set out from the beginning to create an investigative environment and image that appeared to be based on a highly scientific, objective study of the Dealey Plaza evidence. The overall objective of this approach was to prove "scientifically" that the Warren Commission was right, and that Lee Harvey Oswald

fired all the shots that had struck John Kennedy, Governor Connally and policeman Tippitt. That required scientific proof of the single bullet theory, among other things. Blakey did just that. Right up to the moment when the acoustical evidence on the Dallas police tape reared its ugly head, only one month from the end of the life of the committee, Blakey managed to control and manipulate the Dealey Plaza evidence to back up the Warren Commission completely. The author described how Blakey did this in an earlier article. One of his "magical" methods was to split up the scientific work into sub committees or panels of advisors, and various staff groups, and keep them all from communicating with each other. Thus, even though the medical panel gave testimony showing an upward trajectory of the single bullet (399) shot, the trajectory panel turned it into a downward trajectory. The photographic panel was so isolated they never did see the most important evidence of the sixth floor window, inside and outside.

The photo panel had a number of government and military people on it, as did all of the other panels. Thus it was not surprising that they testified that the fake photos of Oswald holding a rifle were not fakes. Blakey rode roughshod over the evidence that these photos were fakes, presenting only one witness, Jack White, to show why they were fakes, and giving him a very rough time. Other researchers, like Fred Newcomb and the author, who had done a lot of work on the fake photos, were not called and not consulted by the photo panel or Blakey and his

staff. There are many more examples of how Blakey managed this magic show on public TV, too numerous to describe here.

One important result of this drastic change of investigative environment compared to that existing under Richard A. Sprague, was to draw the attention of the public during the hearings away from the evidence and the witnesses pointing to the real assassins, and to the fact that Oswald was framed and did not fire any shots. It thus provided an additional shield for the CIA and in effect, completed the cover up.

Summary:

Now, in the spring of 1985, the CIA appears to have under control the final cover up engineered by Robert Blakey with the support of a few murders of key witnesses and the existence of the insidious, illegal, non-disclosure agreement silencing the HSCA staff, committee members, and consultants. The situation for the American public appears to be hopeless. The CIA effectively controlled all three branches of government when the chips were down, and have had no problems controlling the fourth estate, the media, or the independent researchers. By what means could the American public combat this awesome power? It is hard to see that there is any means available. And we have now reached and passed 1984. Would an election of Edward Kennedy to the presidency in 1988 change anything? If he lived through a presidency following an election campaign, it probably would. Most Americans react to that by saying, "he would be assassinated". Somehow they have received the messages about what has gone wrong with the United States.

Feb. 4, 1986

Dear Ted: SENT TO ME BY DICK E. SPRAGUE

Here is the Carver Gatlen/James Hosty story written in the first person. Use it as you see fit. You can try to obtain the Gochenour affidavit from HSCA records.

In March of 1971, I made a presentation on the photographic evidence of the JFK assassination at the University of Victoria on Victoria Island in British Columbia, Canada. Since I had to pass through Seattle, Washington on the way to Victoria, I contacted an assassination researcher friend named Jim Gochenour, to arrange a meeting with him on my way out. Jim told me on the phone he had something very important that he wanted to tell me and could not discuss it on the phone. On March 29 I met him and one of his close assassination research friends at the Seattle airport, where they blew my mind with the story that follows.

I should preface this story by telling you that Jim was then a student at the University of Washington, and so was his friend. There were many assassination research groups at that time on university campuses, and Washington had a good sized one. My presentations were made to many university groups in those years, and I got to know people like Jim very well. Jim was living in a rooming house on the campus, that was either owned or managed by Carver Gatlen. Gatlen was on the administrative staff of the University, and I believe had something official to do with student housing.

Gochenour told me the following story, which was backed up 100% by his friend who had been privy to the entire episode.

Carver Gatlen had been visiting with a group of students at Jim's house one night, and had a little bit to drink. He told all of them this story.

Gatlen had been an FBI agent in Kansas City at the same time that James Hosty was stationed there. You may remember that J. Edgar Hoover transferred Hosty to Kansas City after the assassination as a punishment. K.C. was like Siberia for FBI agents. Gatlen said that he and Hosty were fast friends in K.C. and that Hosty unburdened himself to Gatlen. Hosty told Gatlen that Oswald was a paid informant for the FBI, and that Oswald reported to Hosty in Dallas as his control agent. He said Oswald had been reporting regularly to Hosty, every two weeks or so, on the activities of the group that were planning to assassinate the President. He had missed his regular reporting date by some days, and Hosty went to where Marina and Oswald were staying to check up on him. Hosty did not know about Oswald's other room in Oak Cliff, at that time. After the assassination, Hosty was told to get rid of any records pertaining to Oswald. His boss, Shanklin, told him to destroy the message that Oswald had left for him. We can surmise that it was not a threat to blow up the police station, or the FBI office, but rather that it pertained to Oswald's latest information on the assassination plans.

After Gochenour told me this story, which, as I said earlier, was backed up by several people who heard Gatlen tell it, I promised to try and do something about it. I returned and told Bud Fensterwald about it. There was no official body to talk to, then, unless one wanted to trust the FBI, or some other government agency. Bud could do nothing and no one could until the creation of the HSCA five years later. No one had asked Hosty about it, or Gatlen. The first thing I told Richard A. Sprague when he hired me as consultant to the HSCA was this story. He assigned Bob Tanenbaum and Cliff Fenton to follow it up. I gave them all of the information from Jim Gochenour and his phone number. By that time he was in Minnesota, his original home. Tanenbaum called him and Jim repeated the exact same story to Bob. Bob then called Gatlen who was still at the university, and Gatlen denied the whole thing, saying he did not know Gochenour.

The HSCA were then in the throes of fighting to get back their subpoena power, and to get enough funding to be able to send investigators into the field. They did have enough money to pay expenses for witnesses to travel to Washington, so they brought Gochenour back, and took his deposition, under oath. If they had been able to continue, they would have taken depositions from the rest of the people who had been there that night. Then they would have subpoenaed Gatlen, and sweated the truth out of him. Hosty would have been next, probably with some form of immunity and protection, to keep him from being killed. As it turned out, the CIA got rid of both Sprague and Tanenbaum. Blakey never called Gochenour, Gatlen or any of Gochenour's friends who knew the story. That is where the matter rests today. A very sad chapter.

Dick

TED GANDOLFO/ ROBERT BLAKEY CONVERSATION ON MARCH 12, 1986:

THE ADAGE THAT "ONCE A LIAR, ALWAYS A LIAR" IS TRUE, AS EVIDENCED BY MY RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FORMER CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE HSCA, ROBERT BLAKEY, COVERUP ARTIST PAR-EXCELLENCE. BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT HE KNOWS ME AND THAT I'VE GIVEN HIM LOTS OF TROUBLE IN THE PAST, I DECIDED TO USE A FICTITIOUS NAME SO THAT HE WOULDN'T HANG UP ON ME IMMEDIATELY, AND I PLAYED THE FOOL WHEN HE TOLD ME, AGAIN, OUTRIGHT LIES SO AS TO ELICIT AS MUCH INFO FROM HIM AS POSSIBLE. VERBATIM TALK FOLLOWS:

TG- HELLO, IS THIS G. ROBERT BLAKEY?

B- YES

TG- HI, MY NAME IS JOHN ROBERTSON. I'M CALLING FROM NEW YORK.

B- WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

TG- YES, I HAD TALKED TO YOU AT THE INCEPTION OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION AND I ASKED YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, AND YOU SAID YOU COULD NOT COMMENT BECAUSE AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT IN EFFECT AND YOU SAID THAT I COULD CALL YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THE INVESTIGATION AND ASK YOU THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT I'D REALLY LOVE AN ANSWER TO. MAY I ASK THOSE TWO QUESTIONS?

B- YES.

TG- NUMBER ONE, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY WASN'T JIM GARRISON CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE? THAT WOULD BE QUESTION NUMBER ONE, OF TWO.

B- HE WAS NOT CALLED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ITSELF IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, BUT HE WAS EXTENSIVELY INTERVIEWED.

TG- HE WAS INTERVIEWED?

B* YES.

TG- OH, YOU MEAN BY CLIFFORD FENTON'S TEAM?

B- OH, ER, I MEAN THE, THE, THE GUYS WERE DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS TALKING TO HIM REPEATEDLY.

TG- CLIFFORD FENTON'S TEAM..IS THAT RIGHT?

B- WELL, FENTON WAS THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR, I MEAN WAS THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FOR THE KENNEDY SIDE, AND EITHER HE OR PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH HIM..LAWYERS..TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH GARRISON,

TG- YEAH AND FROM WHAT I'VE UNDERSTOOD FROM GARRISON THAT THE COMMITTEE ACCRUED, GLEANED, IF YOU WILL, RATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, AND IT WAS NEVER PUBLISHED IN THE FINAL REPORT..I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY THE OMISSION OF THAT?

B- WELL, ER, ER, I, WE'D HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

TG- YEAH, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT THAT HE TURNED OVER TO CLIFFORD FENTON...

B- WELL, THAT'S..THAT'S NOT TRUE.

TG- IT IS NOT TRUE?

B- NO.

TG- OH, I SEE..ALRIGHT, BUT HE WAS QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY?

B- YES, AND WE DID GET EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION FROM HIM, INCLUDING GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS AND OTHER MATTERS.

TG- OF THE CLAY SHAW TRIAL YOU MEAN?

B- WELL, GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS AS WELL AS ER, THE, THE THE STUFF FROM THE CLAY SHAW TRIAL, YES.

TG- AND IN YOUR MIND, SIR, YOU FELT THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO DEPOSE HIM AS A WITNESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE?

B- THAT'S RIGHT.

TG- YEAH.

B- WELL, THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WE TALKED TO AND, INDEED, TOOK DEPOSITIONS FROM, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM ENDED UP IN THE, THE PUBLIC HEARINGS. THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE, WERE ONLY, I THINK, 20 SOME-ODD DAYS, AND IT WASN'T BUT A COUPLE OF WITNESSES A DAY.

TG- YEAH, I KNOW YOU WERE OVERLOADED AT THE TIME, I KNOW. I WAS JUST..IT ALWAYS STRUCK ME FUNNY AND CURIOUS WHY, SINCE HE'S THE ONLY PERSON OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE JFK CASE, I WAS JUST CURIOUS AS TO WHY HE WASN'T CALLED. I THINK HE...

B- WELL, THE, THE, ER, THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TO REVIEW WHAT THE WARREN COMMISSION DID, WHICH WAS THE FEDERAL AGENCY AND THEN TO REVIEW WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY. THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT TO REVIEW WHAT OTHER PEOPLE

DID, INCLUDING GARRISON IF HE CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION. WHAT WE WERE LOOKING TO IS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY, NOT WHAT GARRISON DID. IF SOMEBODY HAD INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ABOUT OSWALD OR SOMEBODY LIKE THAT, WE WOULD. AND GARRISON KNEW ABOUT THAT PERSON, WE WOULD TALK TO GARRISON TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON WHO HAD EYEWITNESS OR EARWITNESS TESTIMONY, AND THEN WE WOULD GO TALK TO THAT PERSON DIRECTLY..

TG- OH, I SEE...

B- WE REALLY WEREN'T INTERESTED IN WHAT GARRISON DID IN, IN, IN, ER, IN ITSELF. WE WERE INTERESTED IN WHAT GARRISON LEARNED, AND THEN THE PEOPLE FROM WHOM HE LEARNED IT.

TG- YES.

B- WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT GARRISON DID. WE WEREN'T SITTING TO REVIEW THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION. WE WERE SITTING TO REVIEW WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY.

TG- YES, OH, OF COURSE, BUT...

B- AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WARREN COMMISSION.

TG- RIGHT..NO, I WAS JUST THINKING BECAUSE SINCE HE DID CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY, I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE HIS EVIDENCE MIGHT BE MENTIONED IN THE FINAL REPORT.

B- OH IT IS, EXTENSIVELY.

TG- I BEG YOUR PARDON?

B- IT IS, EXTENSIVELY.

TG- GARRISON'S?

B- YEAH.

TG- GARRISON'S EVIDENCE IS MENTIONED IN THE FINAL REPORT?

B- WELL, ER, IT, ER, WE COULD HAVE A LONG DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT YOU MEAN BY GARRISON'S EVIDENCE. EVIDENCE THAT GARRISON TURNED OVER TO US, THAT IS NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF WITNESSES WHO WE THEN INTERVIEWED ARE, ARE ALL OVER THE FINAL REPORT.

TG- AHA, AHA, AHA, OKAY, AND THE NUMBER TWO QUESTION IS, ER..

B- I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST UP TO THREE, BUT GO AHEAD.

TG- I BEG YOUR PARDON?

B- I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST UP TO THREE BY NOW BUT GO AHEAD.

TG- NO, I'M SORRY, NO.. THE OTHER ONE THAT INTRIGUED ME IS, ER...

B- REMEMBER, I'M A GENIE, YOU ONLY GET THREE.

TG- (LAUGHING) YOU HAVE A REMARKABLY GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR THERE. I'M SORRY BUT THIS IS A RATHER IMPORTANT ONE. I'VE JUST READ A BOOK WRITTEN BY A MAN NAMED HENRY HURT .. IT'S CALLED "REASONABLE DOUBT"..YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?..

B- YES.

TG- OKAY, AND HE SAID THAT AMONG THE THINGS THE COMMITTEE, AND HE DIRECTED IT TOWARD YOURSELF, DID NOT SEE IS THE CIA'S '201 FILE' ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

B- NOT TRUE.

TG- IT IS NOT TRUE?

B- NOPE.

TG- OH, YOU SAW IT?

B- YEAH.

TG- NOW, DIDN'T THAT PROVE THAT HE WAS AN OPERATIVE OF THE CIA, SINCE HE HAD A '201 FILE'?

B- NO.

TG- NO? IT DID NOT PROVE THAT?

B- THAT'S RIGHT.

TG- OH, I'VE HEARD THAT IF A PERSON HAS A '201 FILE'....

B- WELL, YOU'VE HEARD WRONG.

TG- AH-HUH. DO YOU RECALL THAT FILE AND WHAT IT SAID ABOUT OSWALD?

B- YES.

TG- COULD YOU JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE IDEA?

B- HE, HE WAS NOT AN AGENT FOR THE AGENCY.

TG- HE WAS NOT?

B- HE WAS NOT AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF THE AGENCY.

TG- AH-HUH, AND THAT'S ALL THE '201 FILE' SAID ABOUT HIM?

B- O-O-O-H-H-H-H-, THE 20, the,.....I MEAN, YOU, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S SEVERAL YEARS OLD .

B- (CONTINUED) SEVERAL YEARS OLD.. IN MY OWN MIND BUT, BUT LOOK, THE 201 FILE IS SIMPLY THAT HE HAD A PERSONNEL FILE AND PERSONNEL IS NOT USED IN THE SENSE OF EMPLOYMENT. IT MEANS THAT HE HAD AN INDIVIDUAL FILE UNDER HIS NAME, AND IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ANYBODY... THEIR FILES ARE ORGANIZED UNDER VARIOUS.. IN VARIOUS FASHIONS..SOMETIMES IT WILL BE A PROJECT... AND THE NAME OF THE PROJECT WILL BE THE NAME OF THE FILE, AND THEN EVERYTHING IN REFERENCE TO THAT PROJECT WILL GO IN THAT FILE. SOMETIMES OTHER FILES ARE ORGANIZED AROUND PEOPLE.. AND THEN EVERYTHING IN REFERENCE TO THAT PERSON WILL GO IN THAT FILE.

TG- I SEE.

B- AND WHEN A PERSON,..AND WHEN/ 201 FILE MEANS A PERSONNEL FILE, A PERSONAL FILE.

TG- A PERSONAL FILE.

B- YEAH, I MEAN.. IN OTHER WORDS WHEN ENOUGH INFORMATION IS ACCUMULATED ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL, IN SEVERAL PROJECTS OR OTHER PEOPLE'S FILES, THEY WOULD MAKE A DECISION TO, TO PULL THAT OUT, I DON'T MEAN SEPERATE IT FROM, BUT I MEAN IN ADDITION TO HAVING IT APPEARING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S PERSONNEL.. PERSONAL FILES AND PROJECT FILES, THEY WOULD CREATE ANOTHER FILE IN THAT PERSON'S NAME, A 201 FILE, AND THEN EVERYTHING, IN REFERENCE TO, LIKE FOR EXAMPLE OSWALD, EVERYTHING IN REFERENCE TO OSWALD WOULD BE IN OSWALD'S 201 FILE. HE WOULD ALSO BE IN PROJECT FILES. HE WOULD ALSO BE IN FILES ON OTHER PEOPLE. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WAS AN AGENT.

TG- VERY INTERESTING, I ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE. In conclusion no more questions, I HAVE A STATEMENT FOR YOU. THERE'S A COLLEGE CALLED THE WAYNE PATTERSON COLLEGE IN NEW JERSEY, AND THEY ARE INVITING VARIOUS PEOPLE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE JFK ASSASSINATION TO PARTICIPATE BY GOING TO A STUDIO NEAR THEIR HOMES SO AS TO BE VERY CONVENIENT FOR THEM. I WAS WONDERING WOULD YOU CARE TO PARTICIPATE? IT WILL BE TELEVISED BY SATTELITE ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

B- NO.

TG- I BEG YOUR PARDON?

B- NO!

TG- OH, YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF PARTICIPATING?

B- NO!

TG- MAY I ASK WHY NOT?

B- I'M NOT INTERESTED

TG- OH, WELL, I FIGURED THAT SINCE YOU'RE SO KNOWLEDGEABLE, PEOPLE MIGHT LIKE TO GET AN INPUT FROM YOU.

B- WELL, THAT DESCRIBES WHAT YOU THINK SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD LIKE TO DO. THAT DOES NOT DESCRIBE WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO.

TG- NO, I'M MERELY ASKING YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

B- NO I WOULDN'T.

TG- ALLRIGHT, IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, AND THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS, MR. BLAKEY.

B- NO PROBLEM.

TG- THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

B- GOOD NIGHT.

TG- GOOD NIGHT.

Now, I have read and listened to the tape several times.. just one question. Since Blakey said the words "persennel files" several times before changing it to "personal files", was that just an ordinary slip of the tongue on his part or what Obviously, the word "persennel" means to do with employment!! Did he keep slipping (as did Oswald when he said on New Orleans radio that "I was under the protection of the, of the, er, that is to say, I wasn't under the protection of the United States government", etc,) did Blakey keep "slipping" when he kept saying "Oswald PERSONNEL FILES". I'll let you ponder that one. But despite the B.B. (Blakey Bullshit), we KNOW he was an employee of not only the CIA but the FBI as well.

-AND THE BEAT GOES ON-

DOWNING FINDS HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS PROBE INCOMPLETE

Former Congressman Thomas Downing, who introduced the original Congressional resolution, (#204) in 1975, which proposed the congressional investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, and myself, had a brief conversation on July 1, 1986 relating to that inquiry. Here is a verbatim excerpt of the conversation:

- TG) Mr. Downing, let me ask you something. Since you were integral in constituting the House Committee in the first place, how do you feel about their work?
- TD) The Committee's work?
- TG) Yes.
- TD) I think that...of course I got off right after it became active, and I followed it very closely. I did not know the inner workings of the Committee but I thought they went at it very aggressively, and their conclusion, of course, was not as strong as I thought it would be. I thought there were a lot more leads that could have been developed...
- TG) Exactly.
- TD) But of course the most startling one was the shot theory..the 3 or 4 shots, but there must have been better leads than that.
- TG) There were.
- TD) Because there are hundreds of inconsistencies.
- TG) I talked at the time to Jim Garrison...
- TD) Oh, yeah, the District Attorney.
- TG) Yeah, and he said that a 5-man team of investigators headed by Clifford Fenton of the Committee went to New Orleans and secured absolute and massive evidence of a CIA conspiracy which killed President Kennedy, and that Robert Blakey suppressed ALL of that information. I'm still talking to Garrison almost on a daily basis because I'm trying to have his.. get his book published. No one wants to publish it..he's just written a fantastic book called "A Farewell To Justice" sub-titled "The CIA And The..
- TD) Yeah, I believe you told me that he can't get anybody to publish it.
- TG) That's right..there is one magazine publisher who has it and they'd like to publish it but there are a lot of things going on. Anyway, what I've done is, well, during the time, I spoke several times to other researchers..I've done many radio and TV shows on my own across the country..one with you. Do you remember that one, by the way?
- TD) I seem to remember that..
- TG) I beg your pardon?
- TD) I DO remember that I believe. There were a number of them, Ted, of course, and I believe I recall one with you.
- TG) Yeah, well I charge, on many radio shows, TV shows, that Robert Blakey is a coverup artist who suppressed MANY elements of a conspiracy, and that he was sent to be the chief counsel to put distance between the CIA and the actual murder.
- TD) I know nothing about that.
- TG) Well I do and I'm still getting out newsletters and tapes, including a documentary I produced..22 hours..called "The House Committee Coverup." A lot of people are still interested in the case.
- TD) Yeah, I'm glad to hear a re-interest in it. I've got to go now.
- TG) O.K. thank you very much.
- TD) O.K. Ted, bye-bye.
- TG) Bye-bye. (End of conversation.)

Director, F.B.I.
 Attention: Assistant Director
 Criminals Investigations Division
 J. Edgar Hoover Building
 9th & Pennsylvania Streets N.W.
 Washington, D.C.
 20535

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:
 Assassination Information Committee
 1214 First Avenue
 New York, N.Y. 10021
 (212) 288-1596
 April 15, 1986

P.S. As of May 24, this letter/taped evidence was not answered by the F.B.I.
 I called them on May 22d and was told that they would NOT answer it at all.
 When I asked why not, he (name unknown) told me, "You are one of those self-styled researchers and we aren't interested in your information. I read your letter and listened to the tape. We aren't going to answer you about this."
 Simply put, just ANOTHER cover-up of the facts by our intelligence community.
 Ted Gandolfo

Dear Sir,

I have, today, spoken to F.B.I. Special Agent Allan Carroll, regarding a most important discovery I have very recently made relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

It is a fact that the F.B.I. ran a series of tests in early 1964 for the Warren Commission on the speed with which 2 successive shots could be fired from the 6.5 calibre, Mannlicher-Carcano rifle allegedly fired by Lee Oswald. The F.B.I. concluded that the very fastest time that 2 successive shots could be fired from that rifle was exactly 2.3 seconds. The expert riflemen employed by the F.B.I. were rated as "MASTER" riflemen. There is no higher classification than that rating. Lee Oswald, according to his Marine Corps records, was rated as "a rather poor shot".

On September 11, 1978, the House Select Committee On Assassinations heard testimony of three acoustics experts regarding this matter. They testified that the first 2 shots, according to a tape recording of the shots fired at JFK were a) fired from the rear of the motorcade
 b) were fired in exactly 1.6 seconds apart.

On the enclosed tape-recording, you will hear the most relevant testimony that day and also the sound recording of the actual shots fired at President Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

The House Select Committee On Assassination concluded, I believe erroneously, that Lee Oswald fired these first 2 shots from the rear at the president. But since, as mentioned above, the F.B.I. determined that the very fastest time this rifle could be fired twice was a minimum of 2.3 seconds, it is obvious that there exists a complete contradiction between the F.B.I. findings and the House Committee findings. Either one is correct but certainly not BOTH of these findings, obviously.

Therefore, it is my considered opinion that at least 2 assassins were firing at President Kennedy FROM THE REAR as well as the assassin who was, according to the acoustics experts and the HSCOA, firing from the grassy knoll which was located at the FRONT of the presidential limousine. This, in and of itself, PROVES that 3 assassins, not 2, were involved in the firing of the shots that tragic day.

Therefore, I implore you to investigate into this matter/evidence and thereupon make your findings relating to this discrepancy available to me as soon as you have done so.

P.S. I have spoken to my State Senator Roy Goodman's office regarding this matter

Respectfully yours,
 Ted Gandolfo, A.I.C

THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY...A COMPLETE OVERVIEW

(PAGE ONE)

BY TED GANDOLFO.JUNE 18, 1986

In what has been called "The Crime Of The Century", President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, while riding in an open motorcade at a place called Dealy Plaza. One week later, the new President, Lyndon Johnson, created the Warren Commission to "fully ascertain all the facts relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy". It is known now that the Commission began it's investigation with the preconception that Lee Harvey Oswald was the "lone assassin" and proceeded to build it's circumstantial case solely along these lines and while in that process, it totally disregarded and refused to consider ANY evidence which did not conform to that, preveably, incorrect surmise. Among these elements of evidence not considered by the W.C. was the testimonies of eyewitnesses to the murder, photographic evidence, doctors evaluations of the wounds to JFK, etc. Thereupon, on September 29, 1964, the commission issued it's findings, i.e. their preconceptions that Oswald, acting ~~alone~~ totally alone had murdered the president, wounded Governor John Connally, and had fired the only three shots fired that day. Very soon thereafter, books which were highly critical to the commission's findings began to appear, most notably Sylvia Meagher's "Accessories After The Fact", Mark Lane's "Rush To Judgment", Harold Weisberg's "Whitewash", Edward J. Epstein's "Inquest", and Josiah Thompson's "Six Seconds In Dallas". Through these works came the information that was completely suppressed by the commission, which had concluded that all three shots fired at the president were fired from the 6th floor of the Texas School Book Depository building located to the rear of the motorcade. Among this information was the following:

a) Of the 92 eyewitnesses in Dealy Plaza, more than two-thirds of them were of the definite opinion that the fatal shot was fired from behind a wooden fence atop a grassy knoll which was located to the right-front of the presidential limousine.

(TURN)

(PAGE TWO)

b) The doctors at Parkland Hospital, to which the motorcade proceeded immediately after the shots were fired, ALL gave interviews with information which was contrary to the commission's conclusions, i.e. Doctor Malcolm Perry stated that the wound discovered on President Kennedy's throat was "an entrance wound", and also, doctor James McLelland stated that the president died "As a result of a massive bullet wound of the right temple". There was much more conclusive evidence, especially the photographic, which totally discredited the commission's assertions to the contrary. As a result of this massive, definitive evidence of conspiracy, the Gallup poll, taken on January 16, 1965, showed that at least 78% of Americans DID NOT believe the commission's findings. Despite this, all remained relatively quiet until February 18, 1967 when the New Orleans States Item newspaper, in a banner headline, stated that the New Orleans District Attorney, Jim Garrison, had uncovered a plot to kill JFK and was further investigating the matter. Then, to put it simply, all hell broke loose. Reporters from across the country began to converge to the D.A.'s office to cover this momentous story. Garrison stated to them in a press conference that "We have uncovered a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy which originated in New Orleans, which is under my jurisdiction. We have arrested Clay Shaw in connection with this conspiracy. Further arrests will be made shortly." And then, almost immediately, the vicious attacks by the (we know now) C.I.A. controlled news media began against Garrison. Perhaps the most vicious, and untruthful, attack was emblazoned in large front page headlines of the Chicago Sun Times newspaper on March 24, 1967. It read, "GARRISON RECEIVED A MENTAL DISCHARGE FROM ARMY". Although it was a fact that Garrison received several medals for bravery for flying over enemy lines in World War Two, and also that he was still in the active reserves and had received a quite HONORABLE discharge from the U.S. Army, the Chicago Sun Times NEVER retracted that totally untruthful story! At any rate, because of continual postponements of the trial of Clay Shaw by his defense attorneys, it was not until February 17, 1969

that ~~the~~ the trial began. During that period of time between the first news article of Garrison's investigation until the trial date, the ENTIRE media engaged in their continuous, never ceasing, symphony of untruth directed against Garrison. Also, to make it complete, the then attorney general, Ramsey Clark, did and said two things whose obvious purpose was to torpedo the ensuing trial. Firstly, he stated in a Washington press conference that, "Much as I would hate to have to do it, I just might prosecute Jim Garrison. He took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him just for personal aggrandizement. Clark said that, just prior to the trial, when NONE of Garrison's evidence had been known or judged upon! Secondly, ~~also~~ also just prior to the trial, Clark empanelled a five man team of pathologists to view and report on their findings of the JFK autopsy. As one would expect, this five doctor panel stated that these materials CONFIRMED the Warren Commission's findings, that "all shots which struck the president were fired from above and behind him." The obvious purpose of this last minute action by Ramsey Clark was to influence the minds of prospective jurors in the trial. And just to make it complete, a man named William Gurvich infiltrated Garrison's staff and, only 2 weeks prior to the trial STOLE the complete copy of the prosecutions case and turned it over, in its entirety, to Shaw's defense attorneys. This tidbit was NEVER reported in ANY newspaper! Also, several crucially important witnesses fled New Orleans and when Garrison attempted to have them extradited back for the trial, he was refused by, among others, Governor Rhodes of Ohio and Governor Reagan of California. With all these obstructions and illegalities used against him, Garrison lost his case against Shaw, and others, although a poll of the jurors showed that he had indeed proved the existence of a conspiracy to murder JFK. This acquittal of Shaw, et al, did much to cause a silence across the land insofar as the JFK assassination was concerned. All remained quiet until the Watergate affair came to light, carrying as it did many improprieties and, in fact, illegalities perpetrated by top governmental personages and it's

(TURN)

(PAGE FOUR)

intelligence agencies, notably the F.B.I. and C.I.A. Because of these known illegalities, there came into being investigations by the Senate, including an investigation by Senator Frank Church into possible intelligence misdeeds relating to the JFK assassination. Senator Richard Schweiker's Senate sub-committee was charged precisely to investigate the evidence withheld from the Warren Commission by the F.B.I. and C.I.A., and they concluded that these agencies, starting with the TOP LEVELS of each organization conspired to LIE to the Warren Commission, and to MISLEAD the W.C! After these revelations were disclosed, a number of us W.C. critics began, in lectures and TV/radio appearances across the country, calling for an investigation by Congress into the assassinations of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. As a result, a prodigious amount of letters, telegrams, etc., were sent to various and many congressional representatives calling for such an investigation. On September 17, 1976, congress, by an overwhelming vote of THE HOUSE, (280 to 65) established A select committee on assassinations to investigate the JFK and King murders. The Committee selected Richard A. Sprague to be it's chief counsel, a most important position. During his first press conference held in Washington, Sprague stated that "Every single document in the possession of the CIA and FBI would be subpoenaed", and that "Every single witness who had evidence relevant to either or both murders would be called to testify before the Committee". And then, as in the case of Jim Garrison, the same C.I.A. controlled news media began it's vicious attacks on Sprague also, which, shortly thereafter, forced his resignation. A man named Robert Blakey was appointed the new chief counsel...a man who was APPROVED OF by the CIA and FBI. He, in his first press conference stated that, "We are NOT investigating two murders, we are investigating as a LEGISLATIVE MATTER"! Immediately thereafter, the CIA and FBI issued, and ordered to be signed by everyone employed on or by the Committee, a "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT", which prohibited everyone from EVER disclosing ANY information or evidence they learned as a result of their employment on the Committee. It was an ingenious, if totally illegal,

document which served it's purpose well in terms of suppressing the crucially important evidence of massive conspiracies in both cases, especially Jim Garrison's evidence. In fact, Garrison was NEVER even called to appear or to testify before the House Committee at all!! One of the principal reasons he was not was discussed with the author by Garrison on February 10, 1978. He told me that a five man team of investigators for the Committee, headed by Clifford Fenton, were sent to Garrison's New Orleans office and that they obtained evidence, including tape-recorded conspiratorial conversations on which Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, and others whose voices identified them with being contract employees of the CIA were heard discussing how they would kill JFK in Dallas! This crucial evidence, among other evidence, was completely SUPPRESSED by Blakey and company,, yet ANOTHER coverup by the government.

The above is merely a chronological overview of the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Time and space restrictions do not allow for anything near a more complete fact-by-fact dissertation of this matter at this time. As a more than 22 year researcher on this case, I KNOW that the JFK assassination was as a result of a gigantic conspiracy by the Central Intelligence Agency. It was aided and abetted by the massive cover-up of the facts by them, the FBI, the military, the industrial military complex which/often places money and profits above human life, and other factions and personages. Perhaps, in time, ALL of the TRUTH in this matter may yet be disclosed. Then, and only then, may we yet be permitted to survive as a free nation.

(END OF ARTICLE)

Ted Gandolfo
Chairman, A.I.C.



CONGRESSMAN GONZALES "VERY DISSATISFIED" WITH HOUSE ASSASSINATION JFK PROBE-WILL READ GARRISON'S
NEW BOOK RE CIA COMPLICITY IN JFK MURDER EVIDENCE ON THE FLOOR OF CONGRESS!!

During a phone conversation I had with Congressman Henry Gonzales today, for about 45 minutes, he confided to me that he was, and remains, "very dissatisfied with the conclusions reached by the House Select Committee On Assassinations relating to the JFK assassination. Gonzales was the original sponsor of a congressional amendment calling for a congressional inquiry into the JFK case. We discussed at length the committee's work, Blakey's covering up of the facts in addition to Garrison's massive evidence of direct CIA complicity in the "crime of the century". I asked him if he held to the belief, shared by Garrison, myself and several others, that the CIA had, at bare minimums, a hand in the murder of JFK. He admitted that he did. I then told him of Garrison's new manuscript/book detailing this fact and asked him what he would do if, upon reading it, it were PROVEN to him what Garrison's assertions specified. He told me, "Ted, I would go to the floor of Congress and bring this matter to their attention, of course." I asked him to repeat that and he did so. I told him that I would contact Garrison immediately with this information and advise him to immediately send the complete manuscript to Gonzales. I then made a taped copy of the complete conversation between myself and Gonzales and, along with covering explanatory letter, sent it to Garrison. As the Steve Allen song goes, "This could be the start of something BIG." Some verbatim quotes follow:

HG) There's no question in my mind that both the CIA and the FBI were very very apprehensive about whatever the Committee (on assass.) was headed onto.

TG) Were you satisfied with their (HSCA) conclusions?

HG) Absolutely NOT! They're contradictory. How can you say in a report that you reached the conclusion it was a conspiracy.. that means there were more than one..and then say that this is something that the FBI and the other executive branch..appropriate executive branch agencies should investigate, but haven't done..that's one of the recommendations of the Blakey (chief counsel) Committee. Their finding was conclusive that it was a conspiracy. You know, this is contradictory. You don't come out and say 'I think it was a conspiracy,' without saying 'I think so-and-so and so-and-so was involved.

TG) But they said 'organized crime'.

HG) Well, they said 'organized crime', but they insinuated that organized crime ALONE without the help of some other..(laughing)heh-heh...

TG) Like the CIA.

HG) Why, sure! Or rogue elements in the CIA, which is what I prefer to believe.

TG) You believe that?

HG) Yes.

TG) Well, I KNOW it from Mr. Garrison.

HG) Is that right?

TG) I've seen...

HG) Well, I have no reason to ever, ever question Mr. Garrison. I have nothing but respect for him.

TG) If Mr. Garrison presented you with definite evidence of CIA complicity to kill the president, and, in fact, if he would prove that to you, would you act upon that now?

HG) I would raise the issue, yes.

TG) You would?

- EG) Yes.
 TG) Before Congress?
 EG) Absolutely, I mean, you know, where else would I report it?
 TG) Yes. ah-huh. alright, er, if you don't mind I would like to write to Jim and, uh, have him forward the evidence that he has put together in a book to you..
 EG) If it's not an imposition, I would appreciate it very much.
 TG) Alright then, er, it's certainly NOT an imposition, and I will also, with your permission, tell him what you've just told me.
 EG) Yes sir.
 TG) That if you are convinced of what his allegations and evidence, that you will bring the matter up before..on the floor of the House?
 EG) I certainly WILL!
-
- EG) The conclusions of the Committee are just absolutely contradictory to me, and unacceptable. Let me put it that way.
 TG) Unacceptable.
 EG) Unacceptable.
-
- EG) I thought it was highly unsatisfactory (The HSCA investigation). To reach the conclusions they did dogmatically and then leave it at that without any real supportive and documented base, er, I would say the answer to that is I'M NOT SATISFIED!
 TG) You're not. In your opinion, to what you said before, you share my and Garrison's belief that the CIA WAS involved?
 EG) Yes, er, to what extent, you know, er, I prefer to think in this surmise that CIA involvement perhaps involved rogue elements, even though the CIA has been out of control all along and it still is.
 TG) Yes.
 EG) They can do anything and nobody gives a damn to find out why.
 TG) They're unaccountable for anything..
 EG) So I suspect that..yes, there there was questionable, unsatisfying..very irregular and very inefficient behaviour on the part of both the CIA and the FBI.
 TG) Behaviour?
 EG) Yes sir!
 TG) In terms of what?
 EG) This is what I'm talking about, totally unacceptable, almost criminally negligent behaviour on the part of these 2 agencies. (CIA&FBI)
-
- TG) O.K., I will get in touch with Garrison and tell him that you're interested in seeing his manuscript.
 EG) If I'm still a member of the Congress, I WILL bring it to the attention of the Congress.
 TG) Well, then you remain a great man in my opinion.
 EG) Well, thank you, Mr. Gandolfo, I hope I'll earn that and merit it.
 TG) Well you did already today. Thank you very much for your time and continued efforts in this matter, Mr. Gonzales.
 EG) Thank you, Ted..goodbye.

The above are just some of the verbatim statements made during this conversation

To those of you many subscribers who wish to express support for Congressman's Gonzales' brave stand on this issue, please express your thoughts to him at: Congressman Henry B. Gonzales- 2413 Rayburn Building- Washington, D.C.-20515. I would also appreciate your sending me copies of your letters to him. Ted Gandolfo-1214 First Avenue-New York, N.Y.-10021- (212)288-1596. Thank you.

Congressman Henry B. Gonzales
2413 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

257

Ted Gandoffo, Chairman:
Assassination Information
Committee -
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone: (212) 288-1596
July 6, 1986

Dear Congressman Gonzales,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, as a long-time admirer of yours, for being so very kind in spending the time discussing the ramifications surrounding the investigation which was conducted by the House Select Committee On Assassinations, due largely to your great efforts in being instrumental in causing it to come into existence back in late 1976. For that effort, we all owe you a debt of gratitude.

I have contacted Jim Garrison and apprised him of the fact that you would very much appreciate his sending you the complete manuscript which he has recently written re the JFK assassination. You will be receiving it shortly. Upon reading it, I'm certain in my belief that, being the honest man you are, that you will then proceed, as you told me, to inform your many colleagues, on the floor of the HOUSE, of the definitive evidence of C.I.A. complicity in the JFK assassination as presented by Mr. Garrison to you. By so doing, you will again be serving the public interest in making this evidence and information available to them in the interests of truth, honor and justice.

Having researched this odious crime since it occurred, and having compiled, easily the largest tape-recorded, all-inclusive library in the world on this subject..more than 5,000 hours in toto, and having appeared as guest expert on more than 250 radio and television shows, including my own hourly, weekly cable TV shows entitled "Assassination U.S.A.", I have, as I mentioned to you when we spoke, informed citizens of this entire country of your great stand and accomplishments on this matter. I am presently sending newsletters to more than 2,500 subscribers all across this land, keeping them informed as to the relevant developments and information relating to the JFK assassination. You would be amazed at how much interest there remains in the public mind because of their, as yet, dissatisfaction with especially the "investigations" and general conclusions reached by the House Assassinations Committee in early 1979. I am convinced that their hunger for the TRUTH will never die, judging from my mail.

I would greatly appreciate your keeping me informed as to future developments and actions on your part after you have completed reading Jim Garrison's historic manuscript. I, of course, will then inform my many subscribers of your great stand on this matter and of those future developments.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
Ted Gandoffo



Court of Appeal
FOURTH CIRCUIT
STATE OF LOUISIANA

210 CIVIL COURTS BUILDING
 421 LOYOLA AVENUE
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70112

DANIELLE A. SCHOTT
 CLERK OF COURT

WILLIAM V. REDMANN
 CHIEF JUDGE

JAMES C. GULOTTA
 PATRICK M. SCHOTT
 JIM GARRISON
 DENIS A. BARRY
 ROBERT J. KLEES
 WILLIAM M. BYRNES, III
 PHILIP C. CIACCIO
 ROBERT L. LOBRANO
 CHARLES R. WARD
 DAVID R. M. WILLIAMS
 JOAN BERNARD ARMSTRONG

JUDGES Mr. Ted Gandolfo
 1214 First Avenue
 New York, New York 10021

August 8, 1986

Dear Ted:

Recently I received a rather strident letter from Mr. Paul Hoch criticizing judgments made by me when I was District Attorney of New Orleans back in the 1960's. I was not aware that Mr. Hoch has had any experience in criminal prosecutions. It has been my policy not to reply to gratuitous critiques of my former office when made by individuals with neither the standing nor the professional experience to make such criticisms.

However, inasmuch as it is not a personal letter - to say the least - and inasmuch as the nature of Mr. Hoch's assault points out a problem which should concern every assassination critic, I pass it on to you. Whether you think it is deserving of reproduction I leave up to you. Because this is 1986 and the forces which killed John Kennedy still remain firmly in control, I personally cannot get too excited about such remote problems as, for example, the pedantic question of how many angels could dance on the head of a pin a number of years ago.

Mr. Hoch has a finely tuned aggression and is wonderfully ferocious. His aggression might be more useful, however, if it were directed not against another critic but against the common foe of us all: the War Machine and its defenders.

The unfortunate thing about the position which Mr. Hoch has taken - attacking a critic who for 17 years has been attempting to point out the culpability of the C.I.A. in the assassination - is that some people who do not know any better might draw the conclusion that his sympathies are really with the Agency.

Regards,

Enclosure: Letter from Mr. Paul Hoch

Ted Gandolfo
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Sept. 15, 1986

3:30 p.m.

COPIES OF THIS LETTER SENT TO GARRISON, LANE, SPRAGUE'S (A & E SPRAGUE'S)

Hi, Jim, Mark, Dick, Dick,

I just got a call from Mae Brussell, who remembered what I told her..of what Lane told me during the HSCA "investigation" re Robert Blakey's defending Mafia man Moe Dalitz and representing him in a large sum suit Dalitz brought against Penthouse magazine at the time.

She told me to rush out and get copies of the Wall Street Journal and explained a bit of the story. Well, here's the story, of course NOT mentioning Blakey at all in it, but it has a great significance.

So I bought these editions for you all. Think of the implications, especially considering SOB Blakey's involvement, in it all.

Then, while representing someone of the Mafia, he concludes the HSCA farce by saying that "organized crime killed JFK.

Can you believe what this bastard Flakey has done?

I'm putting this into my next newsletter ADDING Blakey's role and subterfugeous bullshit re the HSCA findings. I think he does it with mirrors or something!!

Thought you'd all like to see this article in it's entirety.

Very best regards, and hope
you've all been receiving my mail I recently sent you all.

Pest,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ted', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath it.

Hello, Mr. Kwitny. My name is Ted Gandolfo. I am the Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee based in New York, and I have researched the assassination of President Kennedy for nearly 23 years now. At the outset, I'd like to commend you for your great article in yesterday's Wall Street Journal f relating to the organized crime figures and Penthouse magazine. I would like to inform you of information which is a fantastic tie-in to your story. As you wrote, 2 months after the Penthouse magazine article appeared, organized crime figure Moe Dalitz and his cronies filed a lawsuit against Penthouse for the charges they had made against them. That is now known, thanks to you. But what remains unknown is the fact that G. Robert Blakey, who became the chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations 2 years later, in 1977, has an interesting background relating to the lawsuit against Penthouse. When Moe Dalitz and his associates filed that lawsuit against Penthouse, G. Robert Blakey came forward and submitted an affidavit in court, in support of Moe Dalitz. Then, we researchers witnessed a sort of schizophrenic performance by Blakey by, firstly, lending his support to an organized crime figure, Moe Dalitz, then later, as chief counsel of the Select Committee on Assassinations, he stated his provenly erroneous conclusion that President Kennedy was assassinated by, of all groups, ORGANIZED CRIME!!

(*about Mr. Blakey's dual role)
I think that THIS information should be made available to your readers in the interest of TRUTH, HONOR AND JUSTICE!!

201
G. Robert Blakey
Former Chief Counsel
House Select Committee On Assassinations
1341 East Wayne North
South Bend, Indiana
46615

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:
Assassination Information
Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone#(212)288-1596
October 26, 1986

AN OPEN LETTER TO G. ROBERT BLAKEY

Dear Mr. Blakey,

At the outset, let me inform you that many copies of this letter are being sent all across this country to fellow long-time researchers, radio and TV stations I have appeared on as guest expert on the JFK assassination, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and also to many people across this country who still write me inquiring as to the mammoth coverup of crucially important evidence perpetrated by the HSCOA and especially by yourself.

When I recently spoke to you by phone on August 21, (1985), I asked you several questions, among them the following, and your answers:

1) Jim Garrison, former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, told me on February 10, 1978, that a team of 5 investigators headed by Clifford Fenton were sent to Garrison's office in New Orleans and also to Clinton, Louisiana on several occasions and that, among other things, they secured tape-recorded conversations in which the assassination of President Kennedy was being discussed by, among others, people whose voices were identified as being contract employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, and that those tapes had been turned over to the HSCOA (yourself included). Your answer to me was that that information was not true, implying that Mr. Garrison was lying. No, Mr. Blakey, it is YOU who is lying about this crucial information. YOU suppressed it!!

2) I asked you why you allowed the infamous "Non-Disclosure Agreement" to be forced to be signed by everyone who served in any capacity on the Committee, and I told you that, since it was undoubtedly a CIA/FBI document, that that resulted in the ABSOLUTE TAKEOVER of that Committee by the very agencies which the Church Committee, in 1976, concluded, at the very highest levels of each agency, LIED to the Warren Commission, MISLED the Warren Commission, and failed to provide much crucially important information to the Warren Commission. Your answer was that the CIA and FBI DID NOT issue that secrecy oath but that the members of congress who comprised the HSCOA issued it. That was another lie by yourself to me. I have obtained a complete copy of ~~the~~ that document and it is, beyond question, a CIA/FBI document.

3) I asked you why the most brilliant and expert forensic pathologist in this country, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht's testimony, given in open public hearings before you and the Committee, was not believed and relied upon. Your answer to this was simply the following, and I quote you, "Because Wecht was WRONG". I wonder on what basis you were able to make that judgment and evaluation, since, in any TRUTHFUL investigation, the VERY BEST expert/s should be relied upon. Wouldn't a more truthful answer by yourself have been that Dr. Wecht's testimony, if believed and relied upon, totally DESTROYED the Warren Report's, and ultimately the HSCOA's conclusions that all the shots which were fired that day which struck the president and Governor Connally were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald and him alone? By the way, can you, since the HSCOA's final report does not, tell me about, to your knowledge, JUST ONE piece of hard evidence which PROVES that Oswald fired a SINGLE shot that day? Upon reflection, even YOU cannot, simply for the fact that NONE EXISTS AT ALL!! If you can think of one, please feel absolutely free AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR

NIGHT, TO CALL ME COLLECT and tell me what it is?

I will now ask you the following questions, which are imperative:

a) Since it is a fact that the Committee and yourself summoned and called to appear before the Committee ten researchers/critics of the Warren Report, why did you exclude the two most prodigious compilers of the public, and not so public, data on the two murders under investigation? I refer to Mae Brussell, who has accumulated the largest PRINTED files on these cases, and I refer to MYSELF as well. As you know, because I spoke to you at the time, begging you to please allow me to come there with my materials, I have compiled what is acknowledged to be undoubtedly the largest, most all-inclusive, chronologically listed, tape-recorded library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, beginning but 14 minutes after the very first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at President Kennedy in Dallas, and continuing to the present time. If you'll recall, one of the investigators you fired, Donovan Gay, and myself, told you I was willing to provide you and the Committee with very important tape copies. When I spoke with you at that time, in 1978, you refused to tell me WHY you did not want to secure my tapes (approximately 4,000 hours at that time); or why I was NOT included among the other researchers to appear before your Committee? Perhaps you may be able to subterfugeously think of a lame answer NOW! (But I doubt it).

b) Since it is a fact that about one hour after JFK was pronounced dead, Doctors Malcolm Perry and James McClelland held a press conference at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Perry stated that the wound in the front of JFK's neck was "An ENTRANCE WOUND." Dr. McClelland stated that the cause of death was the result of "A BULLET WOUND OF THE RIGHT TEMPLE". Why didn't you call these two doctors to testify before your Committee?

c) Since it is a fact that TWO-THIRDS of the witnesses in Dealey Plaza stated that at least one shot had been fired from behind a wooden fence atop a grassy knoll situated to the right-front of the presidential limosine, and that that shot hit JFK in the right temple, why weren't they called to testify either? (These witnesses include Jeanne Hill, Charles Brehm, William Newman and his wife Gladys, Dallas police officer Billy Hargis, Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, etc., etc.) By the way, you FINK, I have all these witnesses statements on tape-recordings...can THAT be the reason you didn't want the evidence contained on my tapes, you deceitful bastard?

d) Since it is a self-admitted fact that pathologist Commander James J. Humes "destroyed by burning in my fireplace certain preliminary draft notes relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy", why is it that when he was questioned about this most edious fact before the Committee, you blindly accepted his feeble (and obviously untrue) explanation that he did this because "there were smudges of blood on this paper" (notes of autopsy of JFK). Why wasn't he questioned further about this in a more probing fashion?

e) Why was it necessary to, at the last moment of your "investigation", concede to the fact that at least one shot had been fired from the grassy knoll area (based on the acoustical evidence), when the PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE ALONE, supplied to you/ the Committee by, among others, Richard E. Sprague and Robert Groden PROVES BEYOND QUESTION that at least one shot emanated from that exact area? And on what possible basis did your final report state and conclude that the shot fired from the knoll missed the president when the photographic evidence ALONE proves the contrary? (not to mention Newton's 2nd and 3rd laws of motion which have remained inviolate for centuries.

f) Why wasn't the information contained in the following books relied upon and further investigated in all aspects:

- 1) "Rush To Judgment" by Mark Lane.
- 2) "Accessories After The Fact" by Sylvia Meagher.
- 3) "Whitewash" (series of books) by Harold Weisberg.
- 4) "Six Seconds In Dallas" by Josiah Thompson.
- 5) "A Heritage of Stone" by Jim Garrison.

g) As did the Warren Commission, you and your Committee completely accepted the veracity of the SINGLE BULLET THEORY. Why didn't you and the Committee attempt to duplicate identical conditions using simulated bones and flesh comparable to those which were penetrated by (allegedly) Warren Commission exhibit # 399, (the so-called MAGIC BULLET), to determine if ANY bullet would remain in the almost pristine condition as #399?

h) Why, also, didn't you/the Committee set up conditions comparable to those which, allegedly, faced Oswald (or anyone else on this earth), to see if ANYONE AT ALL could do what he allegedly did, I.E. fire 3 shots in 5.6 seconds with 2 hits at a target moving away, and using the rifle (a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano) Oswald allegedly used? The obvious answer (since I KNOW that you will/cannot TRUTHFULLY EVER ANSWER ME ANYTIME) is that it is merely and positively IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH!! THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T !!

i) Why weren't the following persons (who we feel had a vast amount of information to give relating to the JFK assassination) called to testify before your Committee: E. Howard Hunt, Richard Helms, James Angleton, Gerald Ford, Frank Sturgis, Jim Hicks, and, of course the burning question, (as if I didn't know the answer), why wasn't Jim Harrison called either, among several others?

j) Why didn't you deny Mark Lane the right to represent Jerry Ray before your Committee, calling it a "conflict of interest" if he did so, when, in fact, the REAL conflict of interest is your appointment to be the chief counsel, since it is a fact that you, yourself, are represented by your attorney, Louis Nizer, who has been, and remains, one of the staunchest defenders of the Warren Report's conclusions, as he himself stated/wrote in an early edition preface to the Report.

k) Isn't it odd that although the CIA controlled news media combined to completely, and untruthfully, discredit your predecessor as chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, which ultimately led to his being forced to resign, isn't it odd that NOT ONE faction of that same media ever found or published anything at all derogatory about you during the entire time you were the chief counsel? They were very happy to have you there serving in that most important capacity, weren't they?

In conclusion, let me state my opinion, shared by many, that you are unquestionably A COVERUP ARTIST WITHOUT EQUAL. In view of what is written here and also the fact that, as you told me on the phone, the testimony taken in Executive Sessions is being suppressed from the citizens of this country for 50 years, at least, it is odiously clear that the coverup of the factual evidence by you and the Committee far surpasses the original one perpetrated by the Warren Commission. It took us researchers/critics many years to convince over 90% of the people of the complete fraudulence and inaccuracies of the Warren Report's conclusions. It may very well take a considerable amount of time to completely reveal YOUR COMPLETE COVERUP as well, but other researchers will follow. They also will be dissatisfied with what you and the HSCOA have perpetrated, and I feel confident that this will come to pass eventually because, as Martin Luther King used to oftentimes say, "The TRUTH, though crushed to earth, will rise again." So, despite your efforts to the contrary, the TRUTH WILL OUT.

Contemptuously yours,

Ted Gandolfo
Ted Gandolfo..A.I.C.

BLAKEY SUPPRESSED EVIDENCE OF DIRECT C.I.A. INVOLVEMENT IN J.F.K. ASSASSINATION.

February 19, 1987

By Ted Gandolfo-ARTICLE-

I now have absolute PROOF that G. Robert Blakey, former chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations completely, deliberately covered up Jim Garrison's overwhelming evidence of DIRECT C.I.A. involvement in the J.F.K. assassination. This evidence was supplied by Garrison to HSCA investigator Clifford Fenton, who headed a 5-man investigative team for the Committee, and this evidence was given, personally, to Blakey, who completely suppressed ALL of it from the citizens of this country, indeed, peoples of the whole world!

This fact

was uncovered by myself quite recently, and has never been revealed anywhere, before now.

-- TO WIT --

On February 17, 1987...this year... I had a phone conversation with Blakey. Before revealing the most important things he said then, confirming this story, in order to put this in totally clear perspective, I'll relate the following first:

On Feb. 11, 1978, the former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, Jim Garrison, who had conducted his own investigation of the JFK murder in 1967, called me on the phone. We talked for half an hour.

Here are some quotes, from listening to the tape of that conversation, from Mr. Garrison. "Since I last talked to you, Ted, I've talked to the investigators that are based here in New Orleans that have just come back here from Washington, and they are very enthusiastic and they have been stimulated by the attitude up there in Washington in the increased interest in the New Orleans scenario.

"They (the Committee) have TAPE RECORDED MEETINGS IN WHICH THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSING THE ASSASSINATION WITH CLAY SHAW AND DAVID FERRIE PRESENT...DETAILS?" I asked Garrison, "You're talking about what Perry Raymond Russo said?"

Garrison answers, "No, no, SINCE THEN. They have gone beyond that, into NEW AREAS we hadn't reached yet. We had the right people but we didn't have ALL THEIR MEETINGS...PEOPLE

PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS. I wish I could tell you of the progress they have made. IT'S PAST CONSPIRACY, IT'S PAST PRIMA FACIE, IT'S SOLID EVIDENCE ON TAPE. I mean there's NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, but it doesn't seem to be reaching... Blakey seems to have cotton in his ears ON PURPOSE."

I then told Garrison that I had called Congressman Louis Stokes, Chairman of the Committee, and also Congresswoman Yvonne Burke, a member of the Committee, informing them of the nefarious coverup practices being employed by Mr. Blakey, and that they both strongly denied that he was doing this. I also told Garrison that I had also called Congressman Christopher Dodd, also a member of the Committee, and that Mr. Dodd had told me that he hadn't seen ANY evidence of a conspiracy in the JFK case. Garrison replied, "Ted, the next time you talk to a Congressperson on the Committee who says they've seen no evidence of a conspiracy, why don't you tell them to do something like this. Why don't you say, without warning to Blakey, why don't you just call the Chief Investigator on the JFK case and ask him if there has been any evidence of a conspiracy. By the time Clifford

Fenton finishes speaking, it will be about 6 hours later. That will be the end of Blakey." There were other things discussed that day between Garrison and myself, but the above will provide a small indication of some of the conclusive evidence of a massive conspiracy, involving persons affiliated with the CIA.

This evidence was totally suppressed and NONE of it was ever published in the twelve volumes of the HSCOA Final Report relating to the JFK assassination.

Now, with this in mind, we move to, as I mentioned, my conversation with Flakey, February 17, this year, 1987. I employed the services of a person who, while listening to this conversation on the extension phone, wrote a verbatim account in shorthand. I began this conversation by asking Flakey about one of the assassins we have knicknamed "Frenchy". He refused to comment to my question about him. Now for the crucially important dialogue concerning House Committee investigator, Cliff Fenton, who Dick Sprague, my friend, who is the photographic genius of the case, who told me that Flakey would NEVER discuss with ANYONE in the past. The relevant dialogue follows: "QUOTE"

GARRISON TG- I also contacted Jim Garrison and he said that a team of investigators headed by Cliff Fenton received, from Garrison, evidence definitely proving a CIA conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

FLAKEY RB- That's false.

TG- Excuse me?

RB- That's false!

TG- That is false?

RB- Yes.

TG- Well that's what Garrison said.

RB- Well, that he said it, I don't doubt. That It's TRUE, I DENY!

TG- You deny that that's true? In other words, Fenton's team did NOT come back to the Committee with evidence from Garrison?

RB- No, we talked to Garrison...

TG- Oh, you did?

RB- Sure, but there's no evidence that the CIA was involved.

TG- Garrison did NOT present you with that evidence?

RB- Look, er, I appreciate your calling me, but I am not available for interrogation.

TG- No, I'm just...

RB- I've given you all the information I'm going to. Garrison's allegation that the CIA was involved in the assassination, and that he proved it or offered evidence proving it to the Assassinations Committee is false on both grounds.

TG- On both?

RB- Yes.

TG- Well, I^B I'm just saying what I was told by Mr. Garrison.

RB- Well, I don't care WHAT Mr. Garrison said.

TG- Yeah, well...

RB- I'm just telling you what happened. We talked to Garrison. He did NOT prove the CIA was involved, PERIOD!

TG- Oh, you DID talk to him?

RB- Yes, I told you that 2 minutes ago.

TG- You mean Fenton's team, right?

RB- YES- he talked to a number of people, including Garrison.

TG- Yes, er, well, and Fenton's team, er, did they report any information from Garrison?

RB- YES.

TG- Was that published?

RB- In part... I don't know that EVERYTHING he said was published, but just about everything he said. The substance of what he said was published, yes.

TG- Of what Garrison said?

RB- YES!

TG- Can you recall anything?

RB- I am not available for interrogation.

TG- No, I'm merely...

RB- Hey, hey, hey!

TG- Yes?

RB- The conversation is over with unless you want to ask me another question on another subject matter.

TG- Er, alright, er, well the,er, I don't know what to say because, you know, L.I.I.

RB- Well then don't say anything else but goodbye !

(BLAKEY HANGS UP ON ME AT THIS POINT)

BLAKEY, BEYOND QUESTION, OUTRIGHT LIED WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT " Just about everything he" (Garrison).." said...The substance of what he said was published, yes." As my close friend, and colleague, Richard E. Sprague told me the following day, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING about Clifford Fenton, nor his 5 man investigative team which obtained Garrison's information, nor the fact that there ever even EXISTED a Cliff Fenton investigative team sent to obtain Garrison's evidence of C I A complicity, nor ANYTHING AT ALL, EITHER ABOUT FENTON, HIS TEAM, OR WHAT GARRISON TOLD HIM/~~THE~~ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT THIS MATTER IS TO BE FOUND IN EITHER THE 12 JFK VOLUMES OF "EVIDENCE" OR THE COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT !! As Sprague told me the following day after the cover-up bastard's conversation with me, "Ted, this is the very FIRST TIME EVER that Blakey has talked to ANYONE AT ALL about the Fenton team/and the Fenton Report. He has ALWAYS refused to discuss the matter with anyone before he talked to you" (me) "about it yesterday." I told Sprague, and Mark Lane and Garrison and Harold Weisberg and Mae Brussell soon thereafter that when an intelligence operative, as Blakey obviously is, continues to repeatedly tell lie after lie after lie, intermingled with the necessity to occasionally tell the truth, to help conceal all the lies, you/one gets mixed up and slips out with the truth, because the mind of a "person" like that, completely enmeshed in the duality of roles he continually must play inexorably becomes befuddled with reality and illusion..truth and lies. That is the consequence of the intelligence operative, as was frankly admitted by C.I.A. top agent, David Atlee Phillips during a debate he had with Mark Lane in 1977 at U.C.L.A. It is my, now proveably undisputable, contention, based on what I have here above related, combined with OTHER CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE, IN DOCUMENTS I've recently obtained, that Robert Blakey was assigned by the CIA to be the chief counsel of that Committee in order to put distance between the CIA and the JFK assassination. I now have, in addition to the above-mentioned, ABSOLUTE PROOF that he was taking orders from the CIA as to how best proceed in order to accomplish his coverup assignment for the CIA !!

--And, so, Jim Garrison's assertions through these all-too-many years re the CIA being the murderers of our beloved President John F. Kennedy have proven to be, beyond question, ABSOLUTELY TRUE, as several of us long-time researchers have known since the news "broke" on February 18, 1967, in the New Orleans States Item newspaper that Garrison had been secretly conducting, with his small staff, a very silent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the JFK assassination. Immediately after the news "broke" the CIA laden news media began their orchestrated symphony of untruth against him. Why indeed not?? The Agency had it's dirty skirts to hide and conceal, and anyone, like Garrison, who had the courage, honesty and humanity to attempt to reveal to us all that persons employed by the CIA had killed the President had to be discredited in the eyes of the very citizens he was attempting to inform as to the TRUTH in the matter. Thus far, by and large, they have indeed succeeded in not only discrediting Garrison and, in fact numerous obstructing justice in the process, but also in the discreditation of ALL of us researchers whose higher calling

towards truth pre-empted the disgraceful appeals for us all to, lemming-like, adhere to the "national security" while our national HONOR was at stake, not only in the United States but internationally as well. All of us researchers/critics of the official version relating to this case have, in the face of incredible forces employed in every possible way against us, slowly, but surely, were successful in enlightening peoples of the whole world of the absolute, odious fraudulence perpetrated by the Warren Commission. And now, inexorably, we are similarly divulging to those many, many whose quest for the ENTIRE TRUTH in this matter remains at least partially unquenched of the much greater fraud which was more recently perpetrated and perpetuated by G. Robert Blakey in particular, and the entire House Select Committee on Assassinations in general. As this country hurtles inevitably closer and closer to fascism and totalitarianism, the burning question remains implicit- Is there yet TIME to begin a reversal towards the ideals which originally made this country the greatest on earth, or are we doomed to live in a society imposed upon us by those who feel, and would have us feel, more comfortable living in a strictured fascist state?

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to relive it"..(Santiana)

"Let justice be done though the heavens fall."..Jim Garrison.

Congressman Henry B. Gonzales
2413 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:
Assassination Information Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone: (212) 288-1596
March 26, 1987

Dear Sir,

I am writing you at this time to inform you of a most urgent matter.

I have now obtained ABSOLUTE PROOF that G. Robert Blakey, former chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, completely suppressed- covered up- evidence in his/ the HSCA's possession, of DIRECT CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, evidence which was supplied by former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, Jim Garrison, to HSCA investigator, Clifford Fenton, during the Committee's investigation. This most crucially important information is contained and revealed for the very first time EVER in a new book which I have just written entitled, "The House Select Committee on Assassinations Coverup", an advertisement "flyer" of which is herewith enclosed with this letter. Because of the fact that you, along with former Congressman Thomas Downing, were the two Congressmen who were instrumental in the establishment of the Select Committee originally, I trust that you would want to have this information and, as you told me by phone when I spoke to you on July 5, 1986, in your words then, "Bring it to the attention of the Congress".

Therefore, should you request it, I will be only too happy to send you a copy of the above-mentioned book for you to read for yourself the PROOF I am now informing you of. I eagerly await your, I hope soon, reply.

Very respectfully yours,


Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.C.C.

cc: Judge Jim Garrison-Mark Lane-Richard E. Sprague-Mae Brussell- Bob Cutler.

ENCLOSURE: ONE.

It was not until 1978 that researchers confirmed that the material filed at FBI headquarters on the JFK case did not include all the information that originated in FBI field offices around the country. (In an unrelated case, a federal judge found that an FBI field office had four to five times more material on any particular subject than is sent to Washington. In the words of the judge, the field-office material is "the stuff of primary research.") Thus, all investigative records in the JFK case handled by the FBI in New Orleans or Dallas would not necessarily have been sent to FBI headquarters in Washington. In 1983 a letter written by FBI Director William Webster was made public in a Freedom of Information lawsuit. Webster noted that the Dallas and New Orleans field offices alone generated 170,000 pages of documents. The net result of this practice was that thousands of documents of potential relevance to researchers were still buried in the FBI field offices-not at FBI headquarters, where most research efforts had been focused. Finally, in 1978, this field-office material began to become available under Freedom of Information disclosures. Somewhat later it was discovered that FBI field offices "routinely" purge their files. One of the more blatant examples to surface so far-an instance in 1983-is the destruction of records in the New Orleans field office pertaining to the activities of David W. Ferrie. The great hope of researchers and critics in terms of the release of documents was the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Hundreds of thousands of pages of investigative records were turned over to the committee by various agencies. Thousands of pages of investigative material were also generated by the committee itself. One of the most grating ironies in the whole case is what happened to that treasure trove of documents. In the end, the Select Committee sealed them in the National Archives, not to be released for fifty years!! The ONLY documents to reach the public were those routine few included in the committee's published material. Thus, the great hope of the critics for getting these massive CIA and FBI files into the public record was lost. Robert Hlakey has stated to me that his committee received "EVERYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE" pertaining to the JFK case that could be found in the records of the CIA and the FBI. During the course of a 1981 Freedom of Information lawsuit, an internal CIA memorandum was placed in the public record. It is an account of a 1979 visit made to CIA headquarters by Hlakey to review the final plans for the handling of the CIA's JFK material. The memorandum contains astounding revelations. According to the internal memorandum, Hlakey was at the agency for an hour. The memorandum conveys the following information, illustrating what must be KEY deletions: "Mr. Hlakey examined only that material held (deletion). He apparently did NOT go elsewhere within the Agency, (deletion), to examine their holdings." This clearly suggests that Hlakey did NOT inspect holdings that were housed at some other

G. ROBERT BLAKEY
1341 East Wayne North
South Bend,
Indiana
46615

269

100-100000, Chairman Assassination
Information Committee
1214 First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone # (212) 288-1596
February 19, 1987

Enclosed find my latest newsletter, which is sent out to thousands of my subscribers bi-monthly, except in this instance. I suggest you read it first before reading the rest of this letter.

Now that you have read my expose about the, proveably now, coverup, perpetrated by you personally, of the Clifford Fenton Report, obtained from Jim Garrison, PROVING the direct involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and since it is an equally undeniable fact that you bold-facedly LIED to me on February 17, 1987, during our phone conversation, when you said that most of what Garrison told Fenton re his (Garrison's) conclusive evidence of CIA involvement in this murder was published in the 12 Committee JFK volumes, and in the Final Report, when, in point of fact, NOTHING AT ALL does, as mentioned in the (my) enclosed newsletter, the burning question remains, WHERE IS THE FENTON REPORT NOW?? Does it still exist, albeit classified for the 50 years you previously told me that much of the House Assassinations Committee has been, or WAS IT, IN FACT, BESIDES BEING COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED PRIMARILY BY YOURSELF, SIMPLY DESTROYED BY, take your pick, YOU, OR YOUR EMPLOYERS THE C.I.A. OR WHAT??? Where is, and what has happened to that most crucially important Report?? This is not only MY question to you but the question that EVERYONE I AM ABLE TO REACH THROUGH MY NEWSLETTERS, AND CONTINUING RADIO SHOWS I CONTINUE TO APPEAR ON AS GUEST EXPERT HAVE BEGUN, AND WILL INCREASINGLY CONTINUE TO ASK YOU, IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE AND CONTINUING. WHERE IS THAT FUCKING REPORT SUPPLIED TO YOU DIRECTLY BY FENTON & HIS 5-MAN INVESTIGATIVE HSCA TEAM??

AND WHY IN HELL WASN'T GARRISON CALLED AND ALLOWED TO TESTIFY IN THE HSCA'S "OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS" AT THE CONCLUSION OF IT'S "INVESTIGATION"?? WE BOTH KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE, DON'T WE? BECAUSE, OBVIOUSLY, HE WOULD HAVE COMPLETELY BURST YOUR COVERUP BALLOON, THAT'S WHY !! COPIES OF THIS LETTER ARE BEING SENT TO ALL MY SUBSCRIBERS, ALONG WITH THIS ENCLOSED NEWSLETTER. THE NEWSLETTER AND THIS LETTER TO YOU WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THE CIA, YOUR BOSSES, THE FBI, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, CONGRESS, FELLOW LONG-TIME RESEARCHERS, MAGAZINES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS, THE, LIKE YOURSELF, CIA CONTROLLED NEWS MEDIA, ETC, ETC. I, AND YOU ALSO, SHOULD EXPECT TO BE HEARING FROM QUITE A FEW INQUIRIES FROM MANY ACROSS THE COUNTRY CALLING FOR YOU TO EXPLAIN AND FULLY ACCOUNT AND ANSWER THAT BURNING QUESTION.. TO WIT, I REPEAT: "WHERE IS THE CLIFFORD FENTON REPORT?" IF YOU RECALL, BACK IN 1977, I SPOKE TO YOU, AFTER HAVING LEARNED OF THE NEFARIOUS COVERUP PRACTICES WHICH WERE BEING EMPLOYED BY YOU DURING THE "INVESTIGATION". REMEMBER THAT DURING ONE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS, WHEN YOU REFUSED TO COMMENT ON ANY AND ALL QUESTIONS I PUT TO YOU THEN THAT I PROMISED YOU THAT I "WOULD EXPOSE YOUR ASS ON EVERY RADIO & TV SHOW I WOULD APPEAR ON?" WELL, YOU DESPICABLE COVERUP BASTARD, I HAVE AND AM CONTINUING TO KEEP MY PROMISE. YOU SEE, BOB, UNLIKE YOURSELF, I HAPPEN TO BE A MAN, DIVULGES THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS MOST HEINOUS "CRIME OF THE CENTURY".

I HAVE DONE SO FOR MORE THAN 23 YEARS NOW AND AM NOT ABOUT TO CEASE DOING SO, NOW THAT, FINALLY I'VE CAUGHT YOU WITH YOUR HANDS IN THE COOKIE JAR, SO TO SPEAK. IN OTHER WORDS, NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU BY THE BALLS.. GET THE POINT?? THE UPCOMING CRESCENDO WHICH WILL SOON TRANSPIRE IN TERMS OF DEMANDS FOR COMPLETE ACCOUNTABILITY BY YOU TO NOW, FINALLY, COME FORWARD WITH THE TRUTH CONCERNING ALL OF THE IMPLICATIONS EMBODIED IN YOUR SUPPRESSION OF THE FENTON REPORT/ GARRISON'S DIVULGING TO HIM AND HIS INVESTIGATIVE TEAM OF 5 CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF DIRECT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK ASSASSINATION WILL SOON BE DECENDING ON YOU TO DIVULGE ALL!!

ALTHOUGH I KNOW YOU CANNOT TRUTHFULLY ANSWER THE ABOVE (AND IN THE NEWSLETTER) CHARGES I HEREIN MAKE AGAINST YOU, WHY NOT SURPRISE AND, INDEED, SHOCK ME WITH YOUR, NO DOUBT BRILLIANT, REPLY. IF SO, I WILL PUBLISH IT IN FULL IN MY VERY NEXT NEWSLETTER AND DIVULGE IT ON ALL SUBSEQUENT SHOWS I WILL BE SOON APPEARING ON AGAIN.

IN ANXIOUS WAITING, I REMAIN,

Red Gondolf

Larry Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.
20505

270

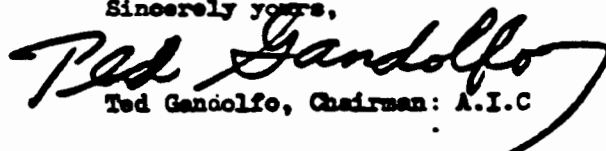
Ted Gandolfo, Chairman Assassination
Information Committee
1214 First Avenue-(APT. 3G)
New York, N.Y. 10021
Phone # (212) 288-1596
February 19, 1987

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

Enclosed, please find my most recent newsletter entitled, "Assassination U.S.A ", which is sent out bi-monthly to more than 2,700 subscribers across the country. As you see, the lead cover story, and the revelations it contains is the primary reason I am sending it to you and the Agency.. The devastating information published herein will no doubt speak for itself. This story, revealed here for the very first time anywhere in ANY publication is entirely true in every aspect, and is completely documented and corroborated, by the enclosed and, indeed, other corroborative evidence in my personal files and possession, and elsewhere, where I have submitted it all and placed it in the possession of several persons, should mine ever become "lost" or in some way confiscated by whomever. I am a more than 23 year private researcher on the JFK assassination and have appeared as guest expert on more than 250 radio & TV shows, including my own hourly weekly cable TV shows in 1977 & 1978. I have also compiled the largest, all-inclusive tape-recorded library in the world on this case, numbering more than 5,000 hours at present, and continuing..

The reason I am sending you the enclosed information is in the fervent hope that you and/or anyone else in the Agency will respond to the information contained herein, hopefully as soon as is possible. If and when I receive a reply from the Agency I will be only too happy to publish it in my next newsletter for the edification of my many subscribers and listening audience during radio shows I am still appearing on re this case. Should I not receive a reply or any response at all, that, in and of itself will be reported out by myself as well, and will, in fact be indicative of certain things relating to a lack of "deniability" regarding this matter from you..the Agency. I await your, hopefully soon, reply and response eagerly.

Sincerely yours,


Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.C

place in the building. One presumes that Elakey was not made aware of these other holdings, but the wording on this point is ambiguous. In all, according to the memorandum, Elakey "spent only twenty or thirty minutes discussing and examining the contents of some fifteen safes of Agency materials." The contents of nine four-drawer safes had been examined earlier by committee staff members. Of this material, it is likely that the most significant information was contained in the eight drawers of these safes, which housed the 201 file of Lee Harvey Oswald. The CIA memorandum flatly states: "Oswald's 201 file was NOT completely reviewed by HSCA staff members." In summary, the CIA memorandum states that sixteen file drawers of material were NOT reviewed by the HSCA. If this CIA account is true, public cynicism about a "GENUINE AND THOROUGH investigation of the JFK case is more than warranted when so very many CIA documents--certainly tens of thousands of pages--went unexamined by those charged with conducting the "investigation". As for the assertion that the committee failed to review the complete 201 file on Oswald, Elakey told the author in 1984, "My memory is that we did it. If the CIA says we did not, its records are incomplete." Whatever the actual facts are about the 201 file, the prime significance is that the CIA has placed itself flatly on record as claiming it has sixteen file drawers of material on the JFK case that have NEVER been seen outside of the agency. The CIA specifies that this mass of material includes information on Oswald, the man so many suspect had some operational connection with a branch of United States Intelligence. The presence of these tens of thousands of secret pages, unexamined by anyone other than the agency that originated them, must stand as a monument to the appalling suppressions by the CIA! Since 1978, some documents have been pried out of the CIA by Freedom of Information procedures and by litigation. In 1982, the agency stated that it had released 1,655 documents in part and in whole. A spokesman stated that 513 documents remained classified. Each document could contain anywhere from one page to hundreds of pages, so the significance of these figures is unknown. Moreover, it is highly likely that a considerable divergence of opinion would exist over just which documents of the CIA pertain to the JFK case and which do not. In spite of these figures, it is impossible to be precise about the numbers of documents pertaining to the Kennedy assassination that are still withheld by various agencies. In addition to the FBI and the CIA, the Secret Service, the State Department, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have documents that have not been released. The Defense Intelligence Agency claims it has released everything it has on the case, but certain Oswald records are known to have been destroyed by Army intelligence. Indications are that upward of one-half million pages remain under wraps. As Jim Garrison said, "Why hide anything if there's nothing to hide?"

It is a fact that, according to the latest Gallop Poll, more than

91% of the citizens of this country do NOT believe the government version of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The public has been deceived by those vested with the special trust to conduct national affairs out of the sight and reach of the ordinary citizenry. Perhaps the ultimate deceit is found in the words that greet any citizen who is permitted to enter the main lobby of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia. Etched on the south wall are words put there while Warren Commission member Allen Dulles was director of Central Intelligence. Drawn from the Holy Bible, no less, the passage is a familiar one:

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

It is grossly sanctimonious for officials to lash out at us many researchers and critics who have fought for the truth in this case since November 22, 1963. We, after all, are responsible for keeping alive this passionate quest for facts about the assassination of one of America's most popular presidents. If a truly responsible effort in this direction had been made more than two decades ago by the Warren Commission and, most recently by the HSCA ten years ago, there would not today be such a total corruption of historical integrity.

4. Researchers Assess The HSCA'S Investigation

RESEARCHERS ASSESS THE HSCA'S INVESTIGATION: APRIL, 1987.

I thought a proper ending to this tome would be to include assessments from several fellow long-time researchers as to the House Select Committee on Assassinations two-year investigation. The question I put to them this month was, "What is your opinion of the investigation which was conducted by the House Select Committee on Assassinations?" Their replies follow:

MARK LANE:

"We formed the Citizens Commission of Inquiry in 1975 for the purpose of trying to convince Congress that it should conduct an investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We were able to secure more than one million signatures on petitions, letters to the Congress, telegrams to the Congress and, in addition to this, I personally briefed more than 100 members of Congress and several hundred Congressional aides, sometimes individually and sometimes at groups at forums which I organized in hearing rooms and various offices of the United States House of Representatives. All of this was done as a result of what was really the first mass movement ever mobilized behind trying to get the Congress to investigate murders..to investigate crimes, and we were successful. We wrote the resolution which was finally passed by the House of Representatives after much struggle and much effort. We had no illusions at the outset that such a committee would be free from political influence. We had no illusions that all the truth would be known as a result of this effort, but we hoped that SOMETHING worthwhile would come from the effort. I think that when Richard A. Sprague was chosen as staff director and general counsel, it was clear that there was going to be a serious investigation. It became clear to the Central Intelligence Agency and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation that there was going to be a serious investigation as well, and utilizing their contacts in the news media, primarily with The Washington Star and The New York Times, and utilizing their contacts and assets in the United States Congress, they were able to drive Mr. Sprague out as general counsel, and that was the end of the serious investigation which was then underway. It was replaced by a full-time coverup operation engineered by Robert Elakey. There were some members of the Committee who were aware of the fact that evidence was being suppressed, and if it were not for that knowledge, if they had not been made aware of the historic developments of evidence in the case, I think that, probably, the Select Committee would have ended up doing absolutely nothing. But there was enough information which members of the Committee got themselves, and there was clearly enough interest in the districts where these members of the Committee came from, so that they could not issue a report stating that Oswald was the lone assassin, and James Earl Ray acted alone in killing Martin Luther King, Jr., because their constituents would not

have believed them. Finally, it was possible to get from them a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy, and that the Department of Justice should investigate, and that, in all probability, there was a conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King as well. The Conclusions were worthwhile, because the conclusions meant that, figuratively, in every library in America, The Warren Commission, the official version, had stamped across it by the United States Congress, the word "VOID", and that was a worthwhile effort. Unfortunately, the great opportunity which was made available to the members of Congress to dig into the facts, to get information which had not been made available before, THIS effort was never utilized. Under Mr. Blakey, no effort was made to secure subpoena power or ever to USE subpoena power. This was an effort by Mr. Blakey to close down the investigation that Mr. Sprague had begun. And so, in a sense, what had an opportunity to be something serious became instead the next coverup by the United States government, but enough information was forthcoming so at least the members of the congressional committee had to issue a report stating that there had been a conspiracy and that, perhaps, the Department of Justice should conduct a FULL investigation to find out who was behind the assassination of President Kennedy. Of course the Department of Justice declined at once, and this is where the matter stands at the present time. A branch of the United States government has said there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy, and the executive branch, which has the responsibility and the ability to investigate has said that it will NOT investigate."

(author)- "And, in fact, they also determined that the acoustical evidence, as you know Mark, proving at least 4 shots, one fired from, what you had originally contended, from the grassy knoll, but the National Academy of Sciences concluded that that was not a genuine tape of the shots fired that day."

Lane: "Well there was so much evidence to show that shots came from more than one direction that one hardly needs to prove- that's a story and analysis of geography by trying to prove that the world is round. We know the world is round. The evidence is conclusive that shots came from at least two different directions. The forensic pathologists have made that plain. Dr. Wecht's examination has indicated that there's no question about that, the ear-witness testimony, the eye-witness testimony all attest to that. That was just a pretty elementary starting point-that shots came from two directions, but what the House Select Committee on Assassinations SHOULD have found out is who killed President Kennedy, and of course they DID and then, last year we had an opportunity to participate in a civil trial in the United States District Court involving E. Howard Hunt and we proved to the satisfaction of the jury in that case that the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in, and responsible for, the assassination of President Kennedy, and we had available to us a lot less resources than the House Select Committee had available to it. If I had a whole

Committee working for me for a year or two, we'd know the NAMES of the people involved, and we'd have CONFESSIONS, but the Select Committee was not interested in that. We were interested because of the nature of the case involving Mr. Hunt. We were interested, of course, in securing all of the facts that we could, we secured enough to convince the jury that the CIA killed President Kennedy."

(author)- "The jury actually concluded that, Mark?"

Lane- "Well the question was, what the article in essence said that Hunt was involved in the Kennedy assassination. He sued us for libel and the defense was TRUTH, so I said to the jury that the defense was the truth in the allegation, and the jurors came out and found for the defendants, and found that there was no libel, and the foreman of the jury talked to the media and said 'there's no doubt in my mind the CIA killed President Kennedy and the United States government has covered it up since that time and I don't know why' ".

(author)- "At the time, in fact the date was February 10, 1978, Garrison called me up and told me that Elakey had secured evidence from Garrison handed to Clifford Fenton and his team of 5 investigators that overwhelmed every investigator there..

LANE- "Yes, I know that Story."

(author)- " You know that story..and that Elakey concealed that. I just wanted to ask one more question about James Earl Ray when you represented him before the Committee. Ray was supposed to reappear and he never did. Why not, Mark?"

LANE- "They stopped Ray from testifying before he completed his testimony, and he WANTED to complete his testimony, and they promised us that he would be permitted to appear and then the Committee decided NOT to let him come, and I said at the time that the McCarthy Committee, the Committee headed by Senator McCarthy, which was one of the most evil Committees ever developed in the history of the United States Congress...at least, no matter WHAT they said, no matter what character assassination they were involved in behind someone's back, they always let them come forward and testify and deny it, and it may even have been because when they denied it, they wanted to charge him with perjury, and if they didn't deny it, perhaps they might charge them with contempt for not answering, etc, but whatever the reason, the McCarthy Committee, it was quite clear that they did, in fact, allow persons who they charged, in this outrageous fashion, to come forward and defend themselves. However, the House Select Committee on Assassinations went one beyond the McCarthy Committee, by refusing Mr. Ray to come back and finish his testimony. I've got to go now."

(author)-"Thank you very much, Mark."

MAE BRUSSELL:

"there were several major difficulties with the House Select Committee. The first is the conflict of interest selecting Robert Elakey because of his long association with people like Moe Dalitz- that even though Elakey

wrote a book on organized crime in the Kennedy assassination-John Rosselli, Sam Giacana, Santos Trafficante and Moe Dalitz were only servants of a higher command, and Robert Blakey could keep that command out. Organized crime is only one-fifth of the part of the assassination, and he selected THAT part, excluding his own association, and left the other parts out. The second major problem with the House Select Committee on Assassinations was his absolute refusal to even read the Torbitt Document. The Torbitt Document was written by an attorney, David Copeland in Texas that fully and most absolutely breaks down the assassination elements from Division 5- J. Edgar Hoover's Division 5 of the FBI-the solidaris, who came here from Europe-the White Russians who came here under the Rheinhardt Galen and Adolph Hitler group, and the Committee left out the Permindex operations which Paris Flammonde and Jim Garrison exposed. Also, the areas they didn't use or go into was the area of H.L. Hunt and 'Bum' Bright, who owns the Dallas Cowboys, General Walker, who came from Munich, Germany, and he sent 27 people to Dallas, Texas, and they met with Robert Morris who was formerly chief counsel for Senator Joe McCarthy's internal sub-committee investigating, you know, 'Red-hunting', and these teams moved in from Munich and were to be used, and that H.L.Hunt had even planned a group called the American Volunteer Group to kill political leaders in the United States, as many as possibly ten-thousand. Also, the area that the Committee totally avoided were people such as Connie Trammell with Jack Ruby, who was at H.L. Hunt's home on the Wednesday before the assassination, and the connections of Jack Ruby to the oil-people, or Bernard Weisman was called to testify only because his name was on that poster in the newspapers saying, 'Kennedy Wanted For Treason', and he said that 'the only reason they used my name that day because I was Jewish', and they brought in Nazis and right-wing people into the southwest from Munich, Germany, military people who would do a cross-fire, and not one of those people was ever called as a witness by the Warren Commission or, years later, by the Select Committee on Assassinations. This element was never considered as being part of the assassination of John Kennedy. "

(author)-"Who were some of the witnesses, Mae, that the Committee should have called, but did not?"

Brussell-"Larry Schmidt, Volkmar Schmidt, they were stationed in Germany and they came here..they were working for General Walker- I have a list of 27 of them, and every one of them was left out as witnesses. This is the material I wanted to give to Blakey..those people are very active politically today on the far right, in the Fundamentalist Church in their effort to turn the whole world Christian. They should have called E. Howard Hunt, Frank Sturgis and others. At the time of their hearings, at least...well I could name them-Carlos Prio Saccaris, the former President of Cuba was involved. He died, John Rosselli died, Sam Giacana died, and William Sullivan was shot, George DeMorenschildt was shot, Gary Powers' plane

was empty of gasoline flying over Santa Barbara, and he had implied Oswald's role when he flew over the Soviet Union, and Oswald had the capability to help down that plane-the secret U-2 flights there- when he was working in the Minsk radio factory. The Committee did not pursue the story of Oswald at the Reilly Coffee Company, because Reilly was a client of the Mullen associates in Washington, D.C., the public relations firm, Robert Mullen, and they handled the Reilly Coffee Company and the 'Free Cuba Committee', and E. Howard Hunt and all the Watergaters worked under the guise of Mullen, but, because it was a CIA umbrella 'public-relations-office. Also, Ruth Paine worked as a typical agent in that she was introduced to Lee and Marina in February of '63 by the DeMorenschildt's. Then Ruth Paine became, in CIA terms, the 'baby-sitter' for the Oswald's, and when Lee would go to New Orleans, Marina stayed at her house. When it was time for Marina to go to New Orleans, Ruth drove her there. When it was time to come back to Dallas, she drove her back to her house, and when Oswald was doing something else, in the fall of '63, Marina stayed with her. But the moment Kennedy was killed, the police or Secret Service come right to the house, and Ruth says, 'Come on in, we were expecting you', and they opened the door, then she said, er, takes Marina out and her husband, they said, 'oh, in the garage is all the material.' In the garage was a blanket-and this is very important- and they said, 'oh, this has to be the blanket the rifle was kept in,' even though she never saw a rifle in her life in his hands at any time. Then, they took boxes of material-this is the key to the whole thing- at the Paines' house. They put boxes in the police car and took them away, and sanitized the house of Oswald's belongings. The next morning, they brought the boxes back- and Michael Paine was there, and instead of having an inventory, on the spot, to see if something was planted, what they took is what they got. They brought it back the next morning and said, 'oh, we'll go through it here', and pulled out of the negative that Oswald would have had, and Marina would have had of the ONLY picture she ever took of Oswald at the fence at Neely Street. 'Well that', as Oswald said, 'would be my head but not my body', but that box was in the police department overnight, over 12 hours, and then brought back and pulled out of the box!"

(author)- "In other words, it was planted."

Brussell-"You said it! "

(author)- "Now, Ruth Paine got Oswald the job at the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building. What do you think about her role in all of this?"

Brussell-"Ruth Paine's is the PIVOTAL role! All of the physical evidence against Oswald had to do with Ruth Paine's home! The blanket, the fact that he took something out in the morning, but she didn't see it, the light was on in the garage, but she didn't know he was there. You know that she never saw him at rifle practice, but the only way you can prove somebody did this murder is to have a picture of him holding a gun, and say it was his gun, and she said it was in the

garage-that blanket had the shape of a gun and now it's empty. How many blankets hold up after you take something out of it??"

(author)-"One of the most intriguing aspects of this case to me has been..the question has been, 'why did the planners of President Kennedy's assassination- why didn't they plant a BETTER rifle?'"

Brussell-"They didn't have to plant anything because they didn't expect anybody to look into it except John Connally, and he was part of Permindex.

(author)-"Oswald's rifle was found on the sixth floor in the building, the T-S-B-D building. Why didn't they pick a more accurate rifle?"

Brussell-"When they say, 'his rifle' was found on the 6th floor, we don't know who went to the post office and picked the rifle up under the name HIDEELL. Why was it his rifle at all?"

(author)-" Because it's on a micro-film ordered to Hidell."

Brussell-"Well, ANYBODY could have ordered that rifle and given their name as Hidell."

(author)-"The question remains, Mae, 'why, if they were going to implicate him and frame him for this murder, why didn't they pick out, why didn't they select, a more accurate weapon so that the official story would be more believable, with a more accurate weapon. Why did they pick on a piece of junk like that?'"

Brussell-"Because he was a very sophisticated person who could write literally, and spell, and they wanted to make him out to look like a ne'er-do-well-you don't want him to look like a sophisticated agent, so you get something that you think a nobody would use.

(author)-"But the critics would be able to criticize the fact that that rifle could NOT do it, whereas if he had a better rifle, they could say that that rifle DID do it."

Brussell-"It's been 24 years since the critics said 'the rifle couldn't do it' but if the powers that be in Washington say 'red is white', you could see purple and scarlet and all these other colors, but it's white to them, and it's never going to be anything but white, so you can keep calling it anything you want."

(author)-"Could you explain that better?"

Brussell-"It didn't matter to them. It didn't matter what they ordered- they didn't have to be more believable because the inquiry would always be controlled. You might ask the same question, 'why didn't they, when they produced this cock-a-mamy diary that Gerald Ford worked with, and on the cover of Life magazine, why didn't they get somebody who was more illiterate because the collection of his letters in the various volumes are spelled right-he writes to the Marines, he writes to John Connally or John Tower- he writes to the embassy-he writes to his family- and there's no similarity between any of the things he ever wrote to that one diary, and you might say, 'why didn't they make the diary look more like the way he really writes', and the answer is they want the diary to make it look like he's illiterate and crazy, therefore has no motive, because if the diary is spelled right, like he really thinks, they would have to then go further into WHO IS LEE HARVEY OSWALD? The principal of using a diary

full of misspelling is identical with using a rifle that can't shoot accurately."

(author)- "For what purpose?"

Brussell-" To make Oswald look like a sloppy misfit..that he uses the cheapest rifle costing only \$14. When he returns from Russia, he hired a secretary, Pauline Bates, to type up his notes, he's not so illiterate and crazy..he has money to pay a secretary. The planners don't want you to know about the secretary. They want you to think that he orders a rifle from a cheap mail order magazine and buys the cheapest rifle, to create the personality profile of an alleged assassin."

(author)- " Final question. Do you have any hopes of a thorough inquiry, finally, because we've had two governmental inquiries and they both lied to us, and, as you know, the only truthful investigation was conducted by Jim Garrison."

Brussell- " I suggest that the only way would be to have a truthful investigation would be to have a group of maybe 12 people like Paris Flammonde, myself, you, Jim Garrison and others, and no infiltrated agents."

(author)-"Thank you very much, Mae."

HAROLD WEISBERG:

"The Select Committee never intended to conduct an honest and full investigation in the first place. They began with the pre-conception that Oswald was the lone assassin and investigated only along those lines, and if it were not for the acoustics evidence, they would have concluded, like the Warren Commission, that there was no conspiracy. They disregarded anything that pointed the other way. The same thing with the King case, except that they said that James Earl Ray did it with his brother's help, so it's nothing new that I didn't expect. They were wrong and they knew they were, but they had to make their conclusions conform to the earlier ones. Instead, the Committee undertook to debunk all the criticism. If you look at all the Blakey narrations, before each hearing he would say, 'critic X says this, critic Y says this, and then without saying he was going to debunk them, he did so. I don't know why the Committee DIDN'T attempt to conduct a thorough investigation. The obvious reason is they didn't want to undertake a fight with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, the CIA and other agencies, especially the FBI."

(author)-"You think mostly the FBI?"

Weisberg-"Yes, because the FBI had a greater involvement in the Kennedy assassination investigation. The CIA did not have that much involvement in the assassination investigation."

(author)-" Are there areas that you feel that they should have looked into and didn't?"

Weisberg-" I think they should have looked into the previous performance of the federal agencies. They are the ones who originally investigated the 2 crimes, supposedly.

(author)-" You mean the Warren Commission?"

Weisberg-"The FBI was directed to make an investigation before there was a Warren Commission."

(author)-"And you feel that they did not investigate those agencies?"

Weisberg-"They never did and they never intended to."

(author)-"Do you feel that there were witnesses who might have been called in either crime under investigation that they didn't call?"

Weisberg-"There were so many. There were people who were mentioned in the FBI reports that they didn't call. There were people who were listed as witnesses to the Warren Commission they didn't call. They were selective in deciding who they would call and who they would not call."

(author)-"Is this in reference to both the King and Kennedy cases?"

Weisberg-"Yes. They didn't call anybody that had a reasonable chance of debunking any of the FBI's investigation."

(author)-"How do you feel they handled either the photographic or eyewitness testimony?"

Weisberg-"They ignored too much of the photographic evidence entirely. For example the photographs of the curb stone and the photographs of the President's clothing. They did nothing, for example, about determining whether the FBI conducted any tests that they didn't tell the Warren Commission about except what I brought to light- the neutron activation analysis, and their handling of that is, at best, dubious. They didn't find out, for example, that the FBI had destroyed some of the spectrographic evidence even though I had published it."

(author)-"You published the spectrographic analysis?"

Weisberg-" I published some of the results of it, I published the fact that I had gotten it-they never asked me for it- I published the fact that the FBI had destroyed some of it, and I had also established some of the Freedom of Information litigation and they had no interest in it."

(author)-"Did they secure any of your FOIA documents?"

Weisberg-" They never asked me for them and so far as I know, they never got them any other way. They never even talked to me about the Kennedy assassination-they didn't want to."

(author)-"But they did about the King?"

Weisberg-"Once."

(author)-"Only once?"

Weisberg-"Exactly once! That was the time Richard A. Sprague called me in, and I went there- I saw him twice, as a matter of fact, once with Jim Lesar and once by myself, and he talked to me only on the King assassination and only in generalities, and then he asked me to spend some time with some of the staff-this was early, before they had ostensibly done anything and what they got I had to force on them. They didn't want it. All they wanted to do was to prove that James Earl Ray was guilty- and I broke off with them when they made that obvious."

(author)-" Thank you very much, Harold."

JIM GARRISON:

"For all practical purposes, The House Committee on Assassinations was simply the same old Warren Commission wearing a false mustache. It adopted without serious examination the very same lies, the very same impossibilities which it's predecessor so fraudulently had peddled-from the fairy tale of the "lone assassin" to the fictional adventure of the "magic bullet".

"In only one instance did the Committee happen to stumble close to the truth-and that was in the conclusion forced upon it by the accidental discovery of it's audio experts that there indeed had been shooting from the grassy knoll in front of Kennedy as well as from behind him. Stuck with this discovery laid in it's lap too late for it to conceal it, the House Committee lurched into it's one correct conclusion. It concluded- as it was forced to- that President Kennedy had been killed as the result of a conspiracy."

*San Mateo, Ca.
April 10, 1987*

RICHARD E. SPRAGUE:

Dear Ted:

I've been travelling again and when I phoned in for my messages, I got yours about the tape not working. So rather than hold you up any further I'm writing this at the airport getting ready to return to New York. I'll undoubtedly finish it on the plane and mail it when I reach New York. Here is my statement for the book.

"In my article 'How the CIA Controlled the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Main title 'The Final Cover Up', I made the point that Dr Blakey and his CIA sponsors and friends engineered a masterful piece of work making the Warren Report look

like a job done by amateurs. Any readers of Ted Gandolfo's book who argue with the premise that the CIA was involved in covering up the original crime, can stop reading this statement right now. They have been living in a nether world without realizing it.

Dr Blakey and other newcomers to the HSCA in July 1987, were all brought in by the CIA to get rid of all Richard A. Sprague's remnants of staff and plans to nail the CIA with the crimes. They succeeded admirably, if one judges by the net result as of 1987. It is a forgotten matter. The Congress, the Executive Branch and the judicial are not interested in reopening the case. A few researchers, like Ted, struggle on, with

little or no chance of success. Let's face it gang, the CIA won. Possibly we have a chance of opening the RFK case. Possibly James Earl Ray has a chance for a new trial, but there is no way on God's green earth that the CIA Power Control Group* is going to allow the JFK case to be reopened, now that they have achieved 'The Final Cover Up.' "

Richard E. Sprague

April 10, 1987

For a definition of Power Control Group (PCG), see my book, "Taking of America 1-2-3."

CYRIL H. WECHT, M. D., J. D.
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
CENTRAL MEDICAL CENTER & HOSPITAL
1200 CENTRE AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

(412) 261-9090

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
LEGAL MEDICINE

April 22, 1987

I served as one of nine members of the Forensic Pathology Panel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Each of the nine members was a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist with a great deal of experience in this particular medical specialty. All were associated with medical examiner and/or coroner's offices in various metropolitan and statewide jurisdictions throughout the United States. The appointments presumably had been made by the House Select Committee or its staff, although I do not know exactly who made the choices. I do know that there was a great deal of hesitation and dispute about naming me to the panel. Some members of the staff, including most prominently the Executive Director, Professor Robert Blakey, did not want to have me serve as a member of the panel because they were aware of my published and spoken criticisms of the Warren Commission Report. This was quite significant as I was later to learn when I made my first visit to Washington, D.C. as an invited member of the Forensic Pathology Panel.

In this regard, from a historical perspective, it is interesting and relevant to note that the first Executive Director appointed by the House Select Committee was Attorney Richard Sprague, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sprague is acknowledged to be one of the foremost criminal trial lawyers in the

United States. His record as a prosecutor during the years that he served as First Assistant in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office is unsurpassed insofar as any major metropolitan community is concerned. He handled all the prosecutions in the Jock Yablonski case and did an outstanding job.

Dick Sprague knew me; he contacted me after his appointment by the House Select Committee. He wanted to approach this re-investigation in the manner in which any good, thorough homicide investigation should be conducted. That is to say, he wanted to have trained, experienced homicide detectives and top level competent attorneys on his staff. He had contacted F. Lee Bailey and other experienced professionals to see if they would work with him on the JFK and Martin Luther King cases. He had also requested a substantial but reasonable sum of money in order to permit such an investigation to be conducted in a proper fashion. It should be kept in mind that Mr. Sprague, having worked many years for a governmental office in a large metropolitan area like Philadelphia, had a good understanding of budgetary needs and investigative costs involved in homicide investigations. He was not a naive novice with no understanding of economic matters. What he asked for was realistic; there was nothing that was excessive or astronomical about the requested figure.

When it became known that Attorney Richard Sprague was professionally serious about his assignment and intended to conduct a full-scale, no-holds barred, thorough investigation, using top-level attorneys and homicide detectives to ferret out

all the information that the FBI had conveniently and deliberately ignored or covered up when that agency acted as the investigating arm of the Warren Commission in 1963-64, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, and most probably others within top government circles, began to have much trepidation and concern. Ultimately, they forced Dick Sprague out of the position and brought in Blakey.

On my first official visit to Washington, D.C., in my capacity as a member of the Forensic Pathology Panel, I was absolutely astounded by the palpable hostility that was manifested toward me by Blakey. This was a man whom I had never met and knew very little about, and he had no knowledge of me beyond that which related to my role as a Warren Commission critic. I had never crossed paths with him in any case and had not been involved with him directly or indirectly in any kind of professional, political or academic endeavor.

Blakey was hostile to the point of being rude. Of course, I did not back off in any way, and because the other members of the Panel were all colleagues of mine, he had to comport himself with some restraint.

Blakey made it crystal clear from the beginning that he had no problems or serious doubts about the medical and forensic scientific evidence in this case, as set forth in the Warren Commission Report. It was apparent to me that he had no intention of really delving into this matter from a forensic pathology standpoint and that he was going to do everything he

could to guide, influence, and direct the Forensic Pathology Panel toward another whitewash conclusion. Regrettably, the members of the Panel went along with this approach, not because of professional incompetence and ignorance, but because of the overall milieu in which the Panel functioned, the roles in which they perceived themselves, and their past, present, and anticipated future relationships with the federal government in terms of research projects, invitations to participate in programs at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, positions on various regional and national scientific committees and panels, and a host of other things. Furthermore, it must also be borne in mind that generally speaking physicians are not comfortable in criticizing each other, especially to non-medical third parties in the outside world.

By the time that this Committee was meeting, one of the original autopsy pathologists, Dr. Theodore Humes, had already served as President of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and was very active nationally in pathology circles. It should be noted that probably every one of the members of the Panel is a Fellow of the ASCP, and several had served (indeed, may have been serving at that time), and others may have anticipated eventually serving as Chairman or a member of the Forensic Pathology Committee of the ASCP. The ASCP also has a close working relationship with the College of American Pathologists, which is the other large, major, national organization comprised of pathologists. It has similar committees

and activities involving forensic pathologists.

I point all these things out so that lay people and even other physicians can have a better understanding of how and why individuals with so much professional experience and training could be somewhat subdued, almost timid in their approach to an analysis of a murder case. This was quite different to the attitude and approach they would have adopted if they were dealing with some murder in their respective jurisdictions or as a forensic pathology consultant in an outside case.

I shall give you one example of how Blakey and his staff functioned, and how activities of the Forensic Pathology Subcommittee were unduly and improperly influenced and unfairly channelled. I should add parenthetically at this point that I have no reason whatsoever to believe that if Blakey dared to pull a stunt like this with a committee comprised of nine physicians, all rather eminent and experienced in their field of endeavor, then he certainly would have had no hesitation in doing the same thing with all the other subcommittees that existed under the umbrella of the House Select Committee.

When I attended the second meeting of the Forensic Pathology Panel in Washington, D.C., I learned to my chagrin and amazement that the other members of the Panel had been previously notified and invited to attend a private session with Dr. Humes, which had been held the day before. I really hit the ceiling and told Blakey, his staff, and my colleagues what I thought of their deception and sneakiness. Their conduct was

highly unprofessional and reprehensible. I kept pressing to determine how they dared to have a meeting of the Panel without having invited me, as a member of the Panel, to attend, also. How could they have arranged to interview Humes, with all the other members of the panel being apprised of that interview but me? I never got a definitive answer. I received some mumbled, phony apologies; the staff attempted to justify what they did by saying that inasmuch as I had already reviewed all the autopsy materials at the National Archives in 1972, an opportunity that the other members of the Panel had not had, this session with Humes was simply an occasion for them to catch up! Obviously, this was a totally spurious explanation which I completely rejected.

It is clear that the investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations was not an objective, fact-finding mission conducted by an impartial staff. There was a great deal of serious infighting and back-biting among various staff members which I came to learn about later on. There were, of course, some quite intelligent, decent, young attorneys on the staff who were pushing hard to ferret out all the evidence and do whatever had to be done to make this a meaningful investigation. However, it became clear that Blakey and his hand-picked sycophants were in control and would not tolerate too much independent activities by other staff members that did not fit in with his overall game plan.

As you know, I ultimately testified before the House Select Committee, giving a one person minority report. They could not

control or dictate in any way what I was going to say. They did attempt to make it procedurally difficult by refusing to arrange for me to utilize demonstrative evidence that was available and was part of the props of the Forensic Pathology Panel. These materials were utilized by Dr. Baden who gave the majority report. Here again is another example of just how petty and ruthless these people were.

It was known that Dr. Baden would be giving the majority report. Michael Baden is a personal friend of mine, a very decent guy. Of course, I knew generally what he was going to say. We had talked as fellow members of the Panel. We had serious differences regarding various findings and conclusions, but there was a straightforward relationship, and no insincere or devious actions were contemplated. Blakey and his people, of course, knew what I was going to say and were not surprised in any way. To my amazement, unannounced previously at our committee meetings and certainly not disclosed to me by members of the staff, after I gave my minority report, Blakey and his staff had made arrangements in advance for Dr. Charles Petty, another member of the Forensic Pathology Panel, to follow up with a completely canned presentation designed to rebut specific points that I had made. In other words, they sandwiched me in between Baden and Petty, knowing full well that I would make numerous dents and chinks in the majority presentation. They wanted to try to rehabilitate their direct testimony and get the final word in before the Congressional Committee. Another example of the lack of decency, honor and professional objectivity

on the part of Blakey!

I was amazed some months later to learn that Blakey had written a book in which he came up with some different conclusions regarding the JFK assassination than had been reached by the Warren Commission. Evidently, he came to realize that there was some money to be made by writing another book, and he could do so by simply injecting another element (i.e., "Mafia conspiracy") without having to change the overall scenario of the Warren Commission Report too much vis-a-vis Lee Harvey Oswald or the single bullet theory.

With regard to the House Select Committee itself, I was disappointed by the lack of knowledge and understanding on the part of many of the Congressmen who were members of that Committee, some of whom had been actively involved in politics for many years. I naively had thought that with a subject as important as this, with such national interest and significance, Congressmen would have prepared themselves better than they did.

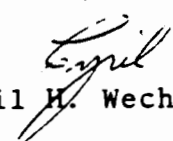
Of course, as is often the case, the apologists and governmental sychophants were present, prepared to do battle to preserve the historical sanctity of the WCR. They made themselves pointedly obnoxious on several occasions during their interrogation following my testimony.

When one considers that despite everything that transpired and the way in which this entire endeavor was rigged from the very outset, in which tight control was maintained (as evidenced by the terribly unfair and ruthless discharge of Dick Sprague and the hiring of someone like Blakey), it is rather amazing

that the House Select Committee still came up with a bottom-line conclusion that things were not as they had been represented by the Warren Commission.

Regrettably, to their everlasting discredit, the Committee did not follow through with its ultimate findings and conclusions. They did not press the FBI, Department of Justice, or executive branch of the government to do anything about their findings. They simply presented them as if it were a school board academic exercise, and they were quite content to let almost every major news media organization in America bury their findings deep within the pages of their respective publications with only one or two paragraphs. And yet, here they were dealing with questions of who murdered a President of the United States, and was the official investigation conducted in a honest, thorough and competent fashion. Despite the fact that their ultimate answers to these questions were negative and critical of the WCR, and despite the fact they realized that they had an unsolved murder on their hands, they passively opted to let the major questions remain unanswered and continue with the official stonewalling posture that the federal government adopted from November 22, 1963 until the present time.

Sincerely,


Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW:dp

FINAL COMMENT:

THERE ARE NO HEROES IN THIS PIECE, ONLY MEN AND WOMEN WHO COLLABORATED ACTIVELY OR PASSIVELY, WILLFULLY OR SELF-DELUDEDLY, IN DIRTY WORK THAT DOES VIOLENCE TO THE ELEMENTARY CONCEPT OF JUSTICE AND AFFRONTS NORMAL INTELLIGENCE. LIKE THE WARREN COMMISSION BEFORE IT, THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS TO OUR CITIZENRY BEARS NO SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP TO THE EVIDENCE IT OBTAINED AND HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION AND SUPPRESSED. AND LIKE THE WARREN COMMISSION, THE HSCA CONCLUDED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD FIRED ALL THE SHOTS WHICH STRUCK PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND GOVERNOR CONNALLY, THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT, CONTRARY TO DR. CYRIL H. WECHT'S PLEAS FOR THEM TO DO SO, THEY NEVER SET UP FIRING CONDITIONS WHICH ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE CONFRONTED LEE OSWALD THAT INFAMOUS DAY, TO DETERMINE IF, NUMBER ONE, ANYONE ON THIS PLANET COULD HAVE DUPLICATED WHAT THEY CONCLUDED OSWALD DID, I.E. 3 SHOTS WITH 2 HITS ON A MOVING AWAY TARGET IN A TOTAL TIME OF ONLY 5.6 SECONDS AND, NUMBER TWO, TO FIND OUT IF ANY BULLET WOULD REMAIN IN THE PRISTINE CONDITION AS THE, SO-CALLED "MAGIC BULLET", (WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBIT # 399.) THE REFUSAL OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT EITHER OF THESE 2 TESTS IS, OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE BOTH ARE, SIMPLY PUT, IMPOSSIBILITIES. THE HSCA COVERUP WAS MORE MASSIVE THAN THAT ORIGINALLY PERPETRATED IN 1964 BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE HAD MUCH MORE EVIDENCE, ESPECIALLY ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK SLAYING THAN DID THE WARREN COMMISSION. THE HSCA HAD IN HAND GARRISON'S EVIDENCE OF THAT AND THEY SUPPRESSED ALL OF IT! ASK YOURSELF A QUESTION...WHY WASN'T JIM GARRISON CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME, EITHER IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OR DURING THE OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS?? WE HAVE HAD TWO GOVERNMENTAL "INVESTIGATIONS", FIRST BY THE WARREN COMMISSION IN 1964 AND BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS MORE RECENTLY. BOTH OF THEM LIED TO US ALL. THE ONLY TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED BY JIM GARRISON, FORMER NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY AT THAT TIME AND NOW JUDGE. HIS INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE DIRECT COMPLICITY OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN THIS MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES. THAT IS WHY HE WAS SO BITTERLY ATTACKED BY THE CIA INFILTRATED NEWS MEDIA AND THEIR LACKEYS WHO LEMMING-LIKE ATTEMPTED, WITH SOME SUCCESS, TO DISCREDIT HIM. HE IS YET ATTEMPTING TO INFORM US ALL OF THE NOT ONLY TOTALLY IMMORAL PRACTICES, BUT HIGHLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THAT AGENCY AS WELL. I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT MURDER IS HIGHLY ILLEGAL. AND YET, WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHEREIN, PROVEABLY, THE CIA FINDS IT POLITICALLY AND FINANCIALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO MURDER THE HEAD OF STATE. ASK YOURSELF A SIMPLE QUESTION. WHY WOULD, AND DID, THE CIA COVER UP EVIDENCE, DESTROY EVIDENCE, MANUFACTURE EVIDENCE AND WITHHOLD EVIDENCE FROM INVESTIGATIVE BODIES SUCH AS THE WARREN COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS REGARDING THIS "CRIME OF THE CENTURY" IF IT WERE NOT ITSELF DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF THE PRESIDENT? THE ANSWER IS, OBVIOUSLY, TO PROTECT IT'S OWN ASS!! BESIDES THIS LOGIC OF THOUGHT, THERE IS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE IN THE POSSESSION OF JIM GARRISON TO THIS EFFECT. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHICH IS GOVERNED NOT BY LAW BUT BY EVIL MEN AND AGENCIES. THE ODIOUS FACT IS THAT THERE IS NOT A FASCIST NATION IN THIS WORLD WHICH COULD

EXIST FOR ONE MOMENT WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CIA. AND THERE IS NOT A PEOPLES IN THIS WORLD YEARNING TO BE FREE WHO ARE NOT SUFFERING FROM THE ABUSES OF THE CIA. THAT IS WHAT THIS COUNTRY HAS BECOME. WE KNOW WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE (CIA). BUT I THINK WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE CAN PUT THIS MATTER ON THE AGENDA. WE CAN SEE TO IT, COME VOTING TIME, THAT THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE CANDIDATE ASPIRING TO ANY CONGRESSIONAL OR SENATORIAL OFFICE WHO DARES DO SO WITHOUT ADDRESSING THIS BURNING QUESTION OF WHO KILLED OUR PRESIDENT AND WHY WAS HE KILLED? AS I MENTIONED, JIM GARRISON HAS THE ANSWERS. HE MAINTAINS, WITH PROOF, THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIME. WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO, KNOWING THIS FACT? WE CAN, ALL OF US, WRITE TO OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE SENATE IMPLOING THEM TO ACT FOR US, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THEIR SWORN DUTY, TO INSIST THERE BE A REDRESS OF OUR GRIEVANCES IN THIS MATTER. I AM CALLING FOR THE COMPLETE ABOLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS ACCESSORIES OF THE FACT IN THE MURDER OF JOHN F. KENNEDY!! CERTAINLY I RECOGNIZE OUR NEED FOR AN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ORGANIZATION, BUT WE DO NOT NEED MURDER SQUADS IN THIS COUNTRY!! WE KNOW THAT THE CIA CONTROLS AND FRIGHTENS EVEN OUR HIGHEST OFFICIALS IN THE LAND BUT, AS I SAID, WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE CAN PUT THIS ISSUE ON THE AGENDA. PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED PRIMARILY BECAUSE HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO END THE COLD WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND THEY BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT FOR HIS EFFORTS. SINCE WHEN IN A SO-CALLED DEMOCRACY CAN AND DOES AN AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT BE ALLOWED TO DO THIS MONSTROUS DEED AND GET AWAY WITH IT?? BUT, THUS FAR, THEY HAVE, AND I SAY THAT IT IS ABOUT TIME, AT LONG LAST THEY WERE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT!! WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SAVING OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE IDEALS WHICH ORIGINALLY MADE THIS COUNTRY GREAT. IT IS WORTH OUR EFFORT. AS SANTIANA SAID, "THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE CONDEMNED TO RELIVE IT." PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS CONCERNING THIS MOST IMPORTANT MATTER AND PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR LETTER/S TO ME. PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE ALONG TO YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES AS WELL, AND ASK THEM TO DO THE SAME. THE COST OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE. A. JIM GARRISON SAID, "LET JUSTICE BE DONE THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL." I AM PROUD TO ECHO THAT STATEMENT. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

-TED GANDOLFO, AUTHOR-